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Poetry.

BUT—THEY DIDN'T.

Oh, Harry came along the lane,
And he was very late.
He hurried on to catch the train
And had not time to wait.
He must hasten!—but against the pane
He caught a glimpse of Kate,
And he didn't, he didn't, he didn't.

Oh, Katie had her doughnuts cut,
Her sponge was light as air;
Her pies were in the over shut
And needed all her care;
She must give them every moment, but
She spied young Harry there,
And she didn't, she didn't, she didn't.

Oh, Harry stopped and spoke a word,
And spoke it very low,
And yet I think that Katie heard
And still believed it so,
Tho' all the while the youth averred
That he would have to go,
But he didn't, he didn't, he didn't.

Oh, Katie said the fire was warm
And she was "like to drop,"
And Harry seemed to think his arm
Was needed as a prop;
And Katie was in such alarm,
She said that he must stop.
But he didn't, he didn't, he didn't.

And as he held her to his brest
And thought of what he'd missed
With Katie waiting in her nest,
Just longing to be kissed,
He bent his head, her face was hid,
I saw a flash and gleam
Of lovely eyes, and then—he did—
I thought the girl would scream,
But ——!
—J. E. V. Cook, in What to Eat.

A SUDDEN CHANGE.

How subtle are the reasons
That sway a woman's mind;
It varies like the seasons,
Is fickle as the wind.

For instance, once, when wheeling,
Jack fell and hurt his knee,
And Maud, with tender feeling,
Shed tears of sympathy.

But view her on the bleachers;
What ecstasy she shows
To see Jack's bloody features
And watch them break his nose!

She screams with wildest pleasure
When some one bites his ear,
Enjoying without measure
The best game of the year!

She smiles to see him gory,
And from her wooden throne
She shouts, when, all for glory,
They break his collar bone!

Though blood and bruise can't stop her,
She loves Jack just the same;
She thinks such carnage proper
When in a football game!
—Life.

WEATHER PROPHETS.

Fellers prophesyin' snow—
Western blizzards, too,
(Course, these fellers allus know
What the Lord'll do!)
When they tell me I'll be froze,
Then I hunt my summer cloze!

'Long in spring they look an' said
All the signs wuz plain,
By the queer skies overhead—
Forty days of rain!
But we had—for all our fears
Dryest weather in ten years!

Then, in summer, we'd be dry
"Not a drap 'ud fall!
But the rain came from the sky
Like 'twould drown us all!
An some weak, believin' fellers
Didn't have no rain-umbrellas!

Allus settin' on the fence
Tellin' us God's will!
Ruther trust in Providence
And take my chances still!
When they tell me I'll be froze,
Watch me hunt my summer cloze!
—Frank L. Stanton.

Miscellany.

DOESN'T DESERVE HER.

Blummer is just now in that frame of mind when a young man vows that his heart is dead; that there is nothing to live for; that

"THERE CAME AN EXPLOSION."

he can never love another woman, and all that kind of stuff.

"And to think I had her," he groans to his confidential friends. "She is the sweetest woman under the sun, and she had promised to be mine. All that I had to do was to get the old gentleman's consent, and that was dead easy. They live about fifty miles up the main line and Whiffey was with me as a sort of moral support. In the smoker we found no one but a mild-faced old gentleman, reading his paper and smiling or frowning, just as he was impressed by what he read. Of course I was talking on airy and tend full of good feeling to contain myself. I engaged the old gentleman in conversation, and we guyed him unmercifully. There was nothing malicious about it, but we were having a whole lot of fun with him in a smooth way, even taking the addree sof his rural tailor and the person who made his shirts with turn-down collars attached.

"I offered him a cigar, but found I had none and Whiffey supplied the want. I'll give you my word I didn't know the thing was loaded. We were laughing and chatting when there came an explosion. It was not a mere puff, but an explosion. It filled the air with ashes and scattered tobacco leaves. It blew the old gentleman's eyebrows off and set his beard afire. We saved most of his whiskers and made the best apology we could while trying to get our breath between laughs. When I called on her father that evening I found him in the old gentleman with the beard trimmed and eyebrows blacked. I got out just ahead of a boot. Counfound that Whiffey!"—Detroit Free Press.

Only a Man, After All.

Mabel—Mr. Guyer is very entertaining, but I don't believe he's ever serious about anything.

Harriett—Oh, yes he is.

Mabel—What?

Harriett—Why, himself, of course.—Detroit News.

His Lawyer Was Smart.

Plankington—I understand that you had to go to law about that property that was left you. Have you a smart lawyer?

Bloomfield—You bet I have. He owns the property now.—Boston Traveler.

Exceptions Noted.

Mr. Fondlek—Why do you ladies always turn to the conclusion of a story to see how it ends before you begin reading it?

Miss Kittish—We don't always do that. There are exceptions.

"What exceptions are there?"

"Well, the continued stories in the weeklies and magazines, for instance."

SHERIDAN'S JOKE ON GRANT

AN INCIDENT OF A PLEASURE TRIP TO HAVANA.

The Only Time the Great General Found a Cigar Which Was Too Strong for Him.

We had "done" Florida, that is as much of the peninsular state as people generally managed to see 17 years ago, and the party, composed of General Grant, General Sheridan, their wives, two nieces of Mrs. Grant, the secretary, Mr. Byron Andrews and a solitary artist, had just voyaged down the gulf coast, stopping for an evening's "send off," and a very lively time it was, at Key West, and now we were domiciled in Havana. Grant's perpetual cigar was a pillar of cloud early in the morning, and a twinkle of fire late at night.

The Cuban colony of cigar makers at Key West had stowed our state rooms

GENERAL GRANT COLLAPSED.

full of their choicest goods, while the famous manufacturers of Havana had all brought out special brands, sending sample hundreds to the palace for the approval of the two famous soldiers. It would have been a breach of etiquette to keep a check upon one's smoking under such tempting conditions. So the American visitors puffed away at countless incomparable cigars while the gaily clad officers of the palace household rolled their cigarettes and wondered how long the most famous smoker of Los Estados Unidos del Norde could keep it up.

Presently there came a day when the programme included a visit to the lofty fortress of Cabanas, over the bay. The heavy state barges rowed the brilliant little party across the breezless harbor, and, Oh! it was hot. We climbed the zig-zag path which leads up to the portal cut into the grim front of the great military prison, which was, even then, nearly filled with prisoners of state. We were shown through courts, deep, dark passageways, parades, barracks and prisons, which fill the whole vast interior of this great, gloomy, terrible place. General Pocurul, then commandant of Cabanas, paraded the troops with a fine fanfare from a bugle squad, and then lunch was served at headquarters, high up on the battlements, commanding a grand view of the city and village-dotted country, which, in those days, presented a prosperous and beautiful appearance.

General Grant saw everything and smoked on faithfully. He noted that of the hundreds of cannon planted everywhere, from the water batteries beneath the palms far below our outlook, up along the precipitous slopes to the crest of the walls of Cabanas, nearly all were of antique model and inferior caliber, practically useless in a modern demonstration, but over upon Moro's walls half a mile away, as we were told, there were rows of big new guns, especially just to the right or eastward of the castle. And so having shown an interest in the matter the party must go over to Moro, traversing covered ways and long open spaces in the noonday heat.

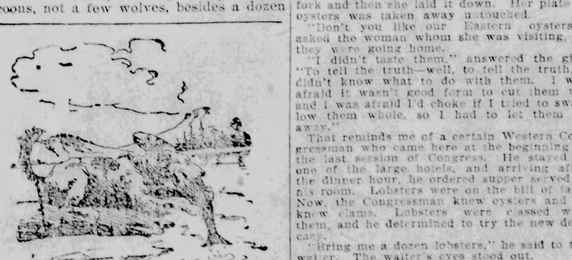
All might have gone well, however, but unhappily Grant ran out of cigars. He searched despairingly through his sundry pockets, but alas! all in vain. Then came Sheridan's opportunity, the chance he had been waiting for after a long and varied experience of Grant's marked fondness for telling army yarns at his expense. He had a cigar. It was not particularly large or obtrusive; just a regular A1 Havana; but O! it was black and rich and wicked looking. Sheridan had been shown through a tobacco factory the previous day. While he waited this cigar was made for him and he put it away carefully and smiled a contented little smile.

So General Grant, with a deep, happy sigh of relief, touched a match to General Sheridan's cigar, and Sheridan—belagged and gyrated like a bad little boy who has put a tack on his teacher's chair. It took a little time for the strongest cigar ever made in Cuba to get in its deadly work upon a well-seasoned old smoker like Grant, and Sheridan began to grow despondent, but joy once more suffused his rugged yet rubicund features as he saw his old commander, with a pallid face, talking hurriedly with the interpreter, a funny mixture of English and West Point Spanish, and a moment later he collapsed in the shade of a wall. There was instant alarm among all who gathered around, and I fancy even the jolly Sheridan got a bit rattled at his own success, but he only winked solemnly at the secretary and said: "Tell 'em to keep quiet and give him air. He'll be all right in five minutes. I thought it would fetch him."

Grant was, indeed, all right as soon as he got up among the jumble of defenses at the top of Moro Castle, where the cool sea winds blew some of that nicotine out of his lungs, and he gazed at Sheridan with a deep indigo look of suspicion, but he smoked no more until the next morning.

A FISHING DOG.

Man is not the only animal which indulges in fishing. Up at Vancouver there is a man who will back his dog to catch more fish in a day than any man can. The animal is a Newfoundland, six years old, and as a fisherman he is simply a wonder. Every morning he goes out on a dead log projecting into the water several feet. He never takes his eyes from the water as it rushes by. Suddenly he leans the fore part of his body and one paw far over the log and then, with tremendous force, strikes into the water with his paw, clinging to the log with the other three feet and the rest of his body. Seldom does he fail to hit the big fish with the stroke and, if the blow does not kill the fish outright, a crunch of his terrible jaws completes the work. The blow usually lands the stunned or killed fish back over the log into a quiet pool, from which it can not easily escape. In the course of twenty minutes he frequently catches from 15 to 25 salmon, ranging from five to twenty pounds each. But this dog is not the only four-footed fisher for these out there, either. It is common thing to see within a distance of less than a mile along the coast half a dozen bears, a family or two of wildcats, a whole colony of raccoons, not a few wolves, besides a dozen



HE CATCHES MORE FISH THAN A MAN.

or more razor-back hogs, to say nothing of a score or so of eagles, all engaged in the sport of fishing for salmon.

Inhuman.

"That was a very inhuman reception Henderson gave the tramp who called there for a bite to eat yesterday, wasn't it?"

"I hadn't heard of it. What did he do?"

"Got out one of his wife's biscuits, and——"

"Sure; he didn't feed it to the poor fellow?"

"No; he hit him with it."—Cleveland Leader.

A Martyr's Account.

"Perkins, your wife seems very devoted to her flowers."

"Devoted! Well, sir, many an October night that woman has dragged the blankets off my bed to keep those wearened little geraniums from getting frost-bitten."—Detroit Free Press.

Earned His Living.

Teacher—How did Diogenes spend his time when he lived in a tub?

Young Idea—I don't know, mum, unless he took in washing.—Exchange.

A Good Combination.

A woman in Kentucky proposes to enter the next Presidential race on a platform combining free silver with agnosticism. The two planks make a good piece of joinery. Six-teen-to-one-ism is certainly closely akin to know-nothingism.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

UNFAMILIAR DIET.

A pretty girl who is newly come to town from the Pacific coast went out to dine in Massachusetts avenue a few evenings ago, says a writer in the Washington Post. Din-

"A LABOR DAY PARADE OF LOBSTERS."

ner began with oysters on the half shell. The Pacific coast girl's eyes opened wide when oysters were set before her. She took up her fork and then she laid it down. Her plate of oysters was taken away untouched.

"Don't you like our Eastern oysters?" asked the woman whom she was visiting, as they were going home.

"I didn't taste them," answered the girl. "To tell the truth—well, to tell the truth I didn't know what to do with them. I was afraid it wasn't good form to swallow them up, and I was afraid I'd choke if I tried to swallow them whole, so I had to let them go away."

That reminds me of a certain Western Congressman who came here at the beginning of the last session of Congress. He stayed at one of the large hotels, and arriving after the dinner hour, he ordered supper served in his room. Lobsters were on the bill of fare. Now the Congressman knew oysters and he knew clams. Lobsters were classed with them, and he determined to try the new delicacy.

"Bring me a dozen lobsters," he said to the waiter. The waiter's eyes stood out.

"Sah!" he gasped.

"You heard me, didn't you?" said the Congressman, who thinks he is a middle-sawyer in the world. "I said I wanted a dozen lobsters, didn't I? Will I have to have my orders printed and bound and sent by mail? Didn't I say I wanted a dozen lobsters?"

"Yas, sah," said the waiter; "but it's a large order."

"I ordered it, didn't I?" snapped the Congressman. "Don't I look like a man who knows what he wants? Did I say I wanted a small order? I want a dozen lobsters, I say."

Well, later three waiters, or perhaps it was four waiters—anyway, it seemed to the Congressman like a Labor Day parade of waiters—appeared bearing lobsters. The room fairly blushed with lobsters. The Congressman was taken aback, but seeing a grin on the face of the foremost waiter, he drew himself up and ordered the lobsters set down. The waiters departed. The Congressman sat down and ate lobsters till there was thought of lobsters made him groan. Then he opened his trunk and filled it full of lobster meat. The night was dark and rainy. The Congressman opened his window and deftly threw choice morsels into the street. It took him nearly all night to do it, but when the waiter was summoned he fairly turned pale. There was one-half of a lobster and a mighty pile of debris. And the bill the Congressman had to pay before he left with his trunk full of lobster next day was really cheap, for the pleasure of seeing the look of awe which came over the waiter's face as the Congressman remarked, carelessly:

"Take those things away; I wasn't very hungry."

Trying to Capture a Burglar.

Miss Ancient Wantiman (suddenly awakening)—I see you have my pocket-book; but there's very little money in that compared with what I have in bank.

Burglar (gruffly)—Well, there ain't no way to git that!

Miss Ancient Wantiman—H'm! Are you a single man?—Puck.

How Courtney Got Even.

"George," began Mrs. Courtney, eagerly, as her husband returned home to dinner one night, says Harper's Bazar, "I've just learnt how to make the loveliest little table for your dressing room out of two old peach baskets. You——"

"No, May," interrupted her husband sternly, "that won't——"

"Yes, yes, but it does! You nail the two bottoms together, then cover them—the baskets, I mean—with pink calico, or blue, if you like. You just love blue, don't you?"

"May, I tell you it won't do. We've got ——"

"Oh, but I know it will! And over the calico you put the loveliest white muslin, and tie it with the dearest little ribbons you ever saw; and the top basket's lined——"

"No, no! It's out of the question. In future all peach baskets——"

"George, what nonsense are you talking? I tell you the upper one's lined with blue, too, and there's a board to—covered with calico and muslin, of course—that lifts off, and gives you the snuggest, cutest little place to put your brushes and shaving things in you can imagine. I know you'll just love it when you get it done."

"But my love, the great trouble I see with your scheme is that in the future all peach baskets have to be kept to make you bonnets. I've just heard of a way of fixing them up that's perfectly splendid."

Mrs. Courtney's pretty brown eyes opened wide with surprise, and her scissors dropped with a clang to the floor.

"You take the basket," went on the long-enduring husband, with a twinkle in his eye that, fortunately for him, his wife did not catch, "and cut it off at a point to fit the owner's head. If too large, pad with newspapers neatly sewed in place with strong linen thread—waxed is best. Then twist daffodils and roses all around the edge, and pour over the top anything from a peck to a bushel and a half of sea-green spinach, according to the taste of the wearer."

Mrs. Courtney gasped feebly and opened her eyes, if anything a trifle wider.

"Next," continued Mr. Courtney, warming to his work, "you take from 10 to 12 yards of Virginia creeper and arrange them gracefully around so much of the sides of the basket as the spinach hasn't covered."

"Indeed!" almost shrieked Mrs. Courtney, now fully alive to her husband's iniquity. "Perhaps——"

"No perhaps about it. Wait till I tell you about the inside. You line the whole thing with cabbage leaves, alternating them, though not too regularly, with a row of holly-berries sticking out at the bottom. But, oh, I forgot! You crown the whole thing with something that looks like a miniature flag pole.

"GEORGE, WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING?"

emerging from any place but the centre of the basket, and sticking up at any angle but a right one."

"Permit me to——"

"Mention the lace? Of course you must have lace, and a ribbon or two. Well, then, take the gauze that formerly covered the fruit basket, tear it into strips from two to three inches wide, notch one edge of these in irregular scallops, carefully hem the other, and dye the whole thing in strong coffee till your next-door neighbor wouldn't know it from your great-grandmother's lace if she were to see it under a microscope. Now run these strips of lace in bands from the top of the miniature flag pole to about two-thirds of the way down the peach basket, and end in little cluster of ribbons daintily fastened in place with the string used to sew on the cover of the basket."

"George——"

"Feathers? To be sure! How stupid of me to forget them! They come in a bunch at the end of the flag pole, with imitation birds running up and down it."

"Might I——"

"Might you have squirrels instead? Certainly. And if it's intended for a theatre hat you can change the peach basket for a piano case, and have sushed elephants on top of it."

"If——"

"If you want anything further just look it up in Hooper's latest fashion plate, and let's not say another word about it till dinner's half over."

Dinner was nearly wholly over before Mrs. Courtney fully made up her mind just what she wanted to say; but when once she had made up her mind, she said it with a force and clearness that so surprised Mr. Courtney that to this day he views a woman's bonnet with rather more awe than a Turk with a not too thick neck might the Sultan, or a policeman with a not too secure situation, an economic alderman.

MAKING NOAH'S ARKS.

The manner in which the various animals which populate the toy Noah's arks children love are made is certainly novel and amusing. These arks mostly come from Saxony, where armies of children are engaged in this employment. The part of the work done on the lathe, however, is intrusted to older hands.

If one takes up a cow or elephant or horse from a Noah's ark he will see the animal is more or less wedge-shape. This is because they are cut from a circular block very much like a cake baked in a mold and each animal is merely a slice of the mold. Taking the ele-

"SIX CIRCULAR MODELS FROM WHICH THE ELEPHANT AND HIS TRUNK ARE CUT—AND THE FINISHED ANIMAL."

phant for an example, this is the manner of making: A cake or ring of pine wood some ten inches in diameter and a little over two inches thick is turned on the lathe. Then by means of gouges the curves of the animal are cut in the top of the soft wood and at the inner edge a projection is made to form the animal's head. On the other side a deep groove is cut to represent the open space between the animal's fore and hind legs. An elephant disc will be cut up into three dozen wedges and then the child's work is cut out to its angles. A separate cake is made from which the trunk is cut and another for the tail. These are glued on. All the other animals are made in the same way.

Telltale Appearance.

Papa Brindle—Matilda, I seriously object to your encouraging the attentions of that young Spooner. He is the most rakish looking youth I ever saw.

"What do you mean, papa?"

"Why, I mean the way he wears his hat on one side."

"That isn't rakishness, papa."

"What is it, then?"

"It's a boil."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

An Expert.

"My wife is a first-class driver."

"She is?"

"Yes; she can make a horse go to the hitching post without getting out and pulling him up by the bridle."—Chicago Record.

The Yandarlo Waterhole

BY MAYNE LINDSAY.

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The road from Ellington to Mulgary township ran, for three or four miles, through the Lectrie property. In the daytime it was a well-frequented road for an up-country thoroughfare; traveling flocks and herds crawled along it with clouds of white dust about them, while the drovers' stockwhips rang echoes from the trees; squatters and townsfolk drove by with clatter of hoofs over the metal and here a station hand and there a limping swagger dotted the broad white track that slid into the distance.

Years before, the owner of Lectrie had sown thick plantations of blue gums beside the road, to shelter his sheep in the cold Victorian winters when smudgy grey clouds swept up from the weather corner and the wind raced across the open pastures, bitter, chill and piercing; and the rain whipped with stinging lash into the faces of the boundary riders, splashing fetlock deep in mud across the paddocks. The seed grew to a belt of giant trees; so tall that their tops seemed to almost touch the sky, and so thick that, even at noon day, there was always a solemn twilight in their midst, where the shredding bar rattled, and the wheezy mirth of the laughing jackasses called answering peals from the silence.

The plantations loomed even more gigantic at night beside the ribbon-like road, and threw long shadows across it from their blackness. They were not cheerful company when night had dropped upon the plains, even when a yellow Australian moon, big and staring, had climbed into the sky above them, to watch the belated wayfarer with friendly eye. And the two men who had ridden from the far distance out of the November night instinctively drew rein as they neared the shadow, and let their horses straggle across the road till bridle jingled against bridle, and Walmsley, stretching out his hand, could give a friendly touch to the neck of Heaviside's mare.

"There's a desolation about these endless roads, he said. "It ought to be a relief, I suppose, after the din of Collins street, and the bustle of men all about one, but I don't know that it does not repel me."

"It has its compensations," said Heaviside. "Once a bushman, always a bushman, as a rule. It would kill me to live in Melbourne, now."

"Yes, I suppose that is the feeling that comes of hobnobbing with Nature, in season, and out of season," said the other . . . "How black and forbidding those plantations are. They don't look as if they invited your familiarity."

"They dont, and that's a fact," said Heaviside. "They have a way of being so insolently exclusive that I prefer to ride home across the paddocks if I'm alone. And then—there's the Yandarlo water-hole."

"The what?"

Heaviside jammed his wideawake on to his forehead, and coughed a short, embarrassed cough. They were well within the shade of the trees now, and its black fringe spread over the road and the wire fence that bounded it, into the paddock beyond. Where its ragged edge stopped came the white, moonlit plain, silent and shimmering, as far as eye could see.

"The Yandarlo waterhole lies in the heart of the last plantation, two miles from here," he said. "It's a gloomy, desolate place; quite hidden by the trees, though it is not more than thirty yards back from the highway. The story is that there are things to be seen and heard there that—aren't there, you know; and the light of a camp fire to be seen flickering through the trees, that yet is gone when you press through to it."

"Ah, ghosts!" said Walmsley, lightly. He was a materialist before all things. "Unsatisfactory notions, ghosts. A murder, of course, to start with?"

"Well, yes. A drover named Jenkins is supposed to have stabbed his mate, one Robert Self, and thrown him into the water one night when they were camping alongside it. Some Ellington men were passing about midnight, and saw the red gleam of a fire through the trees, and heard angry voices, and then a yell, and then silence. They did not think much of it at the time, but afterwards inquiries began to be made for Self, whose relations in Geelong were anxious about him. They traced him out of Mulgary, but lost his tracks between there and Ellington; and then Jenkins was 'wanted.' As it happened, the latter had been working the year before on a station where I was a jackaroo—that's seven or eight years ago now—and so I was called upon to give his description to the police. Middle-aged man he was then: quiet and inoffensive enough to all appearance. They never found him after the hue and cry began, and it was after Self's disappearance that there came yarns of something uncanny about the Yandarlo hole. I don't know that there is much more to say about it, but the fire and voices story still goes on, and it's a fact that I have seen the glint of light there, and heard sounds, when I have known that there was not a living soul within five miles. But I never went in to investigate, and I steer through the paddocks on dark nights, for company's sake."

"It's a good story," said Walmsley, thoughtfully. "Dramatic, too. Would work up well."

Heaviside stiffened.

"That is my experience," he said, shortly.

"I don't doubt it," said Walmsley. "I was only considering it from the literary, professional point of view. All is fish that comes to my net, you know. It wants something more though—some element of personal interest."

The dry tone jarred on Heaviside's mind, wherein bush life had engendered a respect for the incomprehensible not to be found in the city-bred. He threw back his head and began to whistle an irrelevant ditty, while Walmsley followed his own train of thought in silence.

They jingled on with creak of saddle and click of hoof, and the black shadows shortened as the moon crept up above them. Heaviside wound up "The Sick Stockrider" melodiously, and brought his eyes down from the stars to let their glance travel into the blackness ahead. Then he caught at the reins and checked the mare.

"Personal interest, I think you said?" he queried, with the note of excitement in his voice. "Strikes me you've got it now. Look there!"

He pointed with his forefinger at the black wall of trees that stretched before and beyond them. Walmsley, too, drew rein, and followed the lines begun by outheld arm and hand to where it touched the plantation, a quarter of a mile away.

"I see a bead of light," he said.

"Ah! Then I am no dreamer of dreams. That light marks the Yandarlo waterhole."

"Ignis fatuis," said Walmsley.

"Think so? Let's ride on a bit and watch developments. I've never seen it when I've been here with another man before, and scepticism stimulates inquiry. Come on."

They urged their horses into a trot, and Walmsley kept his eyes on the light as the distance lessened. From the merest speck of fire in the long black line it grew into a wavering, star-shaped light, gleaming faintly and yet ruddily behind tall trunks, the light that a fire gives through spaces between thickly planted trees. When they stopped once more, thirty or forty yards from the spot, the source of the fire, owing apparently to the depth of the plantation, was invisible, but there was the red flicker of flames clearly reflected on the straight, towering guns, and now flashing, now sinking, behind the undergrowth.

"Not much like a will-o'-the-wisp, is it?" said Heaviside.

"No, it's a camp fire, plainly enough. But it seems to me it might very well—What's that?"

There broke through the trees the sound of voices high-pitched in anger; one passionate man replying to another seemingly, for no words were to be distinguished. Then, as one rose, hoarse with rage, into a mad bellow, it was checked as suddenly as if a hand had been laid upon the speaker's throat. Silence hung low for the moment, and then there rasped out, half-stifled and enduring no longer than a breath, the screech of a man in mortal agony.

Walmsley sat motionless for the second, for that horrid cry seemed to stop the blood in his veins, and he felt his horse wince and shiver between his knees. Life came back with the silence and he flung himself from the saddle.

"By ——! a man that is playing that devil's joke shall pay for it!" he said, stumbling across the road towards the trees.

Heaviside had dismounted too, his heart galloping to a mad tune, but he held the reins of both horses, and he made no further advance into the night than to stride forward and clutch the other man by the shoulder.

"Hold hard, old man," he said. "It's nothing more than I told you. And Heaven knows what is behind those trees."

Walmsley wrested himself away.

"Then it is time I knew as well," he said. "It means black mischief, and I am here to see it through."

"It means the old Yandarlo mystery. Man alive! That was no human voice. All the countryside knows the story."

"Bah!" said Walmsley. His nerves were still jarring, and the opposition maddened him. "What do I care how the countryside blethers. I tell you there is some devilment afoot, and if you are worth your salt you will come with me and play the man's part—there." And he pointed to the belt of trees, behind which still the firelight flickered.

It had never occurred to Heaviside to doubt the presence of the supernatural, nor did it now, in face of the denial of it flung thus rudely in his face. But the reproach that went with it had to be wiped out, and he threw the reins over the nearest fence post, and stepped deliberately forward.

"That last word was not in your hapsit yet, Walmsley," he said quietly. "If you go, I am with you, of course. Stop—not so fast. We'll go together."

They fell into pace, and crossed the road side by side. As they neared the trees the reflected light, which had shown high up among the branches was lost to them; but there was still a glow, now visible, now disappearing when the trees blocked it out as they moved. They leapt the ditch beside the highway, crossed the broad track beyond it, cropped close by many a traveling flock creeping wearily to some far-off station, scaled the wire fence that bounded it, and were in the beginning of the plantation, thigh-deep among rank grass, and sapling gum trees, and driftwood lying as the winter winds had blown it. There Walmsley paused.

"We'll go as softly as may be," he said. "We must know who is behind the trees before we taken action. Can you still see the light?"

"Yes. I caught a glimmer then."

"It is out of my range for the moment, but—ah, there it is again! Let us go ahead then ,and tell me if you see anybody first. I trust your bushman's eyes better than my own."

There was no word from Heaviside, but Walmsley saw an answering nod before the next stride left them a pace apart, with the gloom between. Then they plunged forward abreast into the blackness, to find it lighted by the veriest shadow of the moonlight as eyes became accustomed to their surroundings.

They trampled on, cautiously, for a minute. Then Walmsley's voice muttered in Heaviside's ear:

"—the light! It's gone altogether now. Do you see anything?"

"Nothing. There is only darkness ahead, whereas we ought to be almost upon the ashes of the fire. The waterhole clearing must be right in front of us."

"I can see nothing but tree trunks, and the glimmer of the moon up above. Where the deuce is that fire?"

Question not to be answered. For, as he spoke, his eyes lifted momentarily to the blocks of sky that fitted the spaces between the interlaced leaves, the ground crumbled under his feet, and he stumbled forward, recovering—failing. The next second Heaviside's hand upon his coat collar swung him back to safety from the treacherous bank of the waterhole.

"That was a narrow shave," said the rescuer. "A man needs to watch each step he takes in this darkness. And now let us go. What I told you was true enough you see, but Lord knows what may be behind it. There is no fire, nor any smell of a fire in the air—and this is the Yandarlo hole."

Walmsley planted his feet upon firm ground and looked about him, stricken dumb by the lack of natural explanation. Black, gleaming water, a pool 10 feet across, stirred at his feet, the ripples still moving outward from where the frothed to which he had trusted had disappeared. Beyond, the gum trees hung back reluctant, and left an open space where the bark shreds were scattered, and across which a wisp of moonlight made a wavering line. A dead branch had fallen where the ground sloped to the water, and lay half in the mud and half in the touch of the water, gleaming like a skeleton. Nothing stirred but the rustling bark; there was no life, no movement. And, above all, there was no fire.

"Well, I'm ——!" said Walmsley, slowly.

The mystery of the incident bewildered him, but touched him not a whit. Heaviside, on the other hand, had hard work to keep a tight rein upon his nerves which were less excited by the human possibilities of the cry that had roused Walmsley to action than by the evil story of the waterhole, and the darkness that crowded down to it, and seemed so full of strange, vague terrors.

"Come away, old man," he said. "You have seen for yourself how it is. No human being could have trodden out that fire in the time we have taken to get through the plantation." He shivered. "Bah! There is something devilish in the place, to me. Come away."

"But I—— And then that shriek, Heaviside! It rings in my ears still."

"Whoever uttered it is past our help," said Heaviside, and he shivered again. The black shadows among the trees seemed to start a little nearer, and the green streak of moonlight flickered and danced across the little clearing, to the lip of the water.

Walmsley shook his head, baffled, but still unconvinced. He was racking his brain for a solution, and he was in no mood to accept defeat. He had his own conviction as to a hidden presence in the darkness that thronged about them, and he was straining his ears to catch a telltale rustle or the crackle of a fallen twig. Then suddenly, as they waited, he started, shot forward his head to listen, and turned back to Heaviside triumphantly.

"So much for your ghosts! That is a man," he said.

The silence of the night was broken by a distant sound, and Heaviside knew it for the scrunch of bark under the feet of some one who was approaching the further side of the waterhole from the best of the plantation, 40 yards away. His quick ear told him that there were pauses in the noise that showed the newcomer to be a stranger like themselves, blundering through the darkness with lagging, hesitating steps. The knowledge relieved the tension upon his nerves. There was nothing ghostly in the sound, and he was ready to declare, with Walmsley, that it was a man.

"Has he too been attracted by the light, or is it our practical joker returning to the scene of his exploit?" meditated Walmsley, half-aloud. And then he paused, for the voice of the unknown broke from behind the trees in a quavering appeal.

"Robbie! Robbie Self! Show a flare to tell me where you be! It's mortal dark."

Heaviside's fears started up once more. "The name! Do you hear the name?" he said, and caught his friend by the arm. "He is calling the dead drover."

Walmsley shrank back a little into the gloom.

"It's part of the game, no doubt," he said. "And now lookers-on may see the best of it. Only—wait. Ah, he's nearer now!"

The voice came again and the scrunch of the undergrowth grew louder.

"I swear to you I be a-coming, Robbie. For the dear Lord's sake, show a flare!"

There was the note of pitiful entreaty in the appeal. In the hush that followed the listeners could hear the labored breathing of some one forcing his way painfully towards the water. Then the black wall of shadow beyond it gaped suddenly, and a man stumbled into the clearing, with the moonbeams dancing down upon his face.

He was an old man, bent and ragged, and the finger of moonlight pointed out to them a thin sunken face and straggling beard under a battered wideawake. Once in the clearing he stopped, swaying like a drunken man, and looked about him, searching the twilight with his hand over his eyes, like a man uncertain of his sight. Then he muttered to himself, and the men beyond the waterhole strained their ears to hear him.

"He canna have gone away! Robbie wouldna play the old man false, after the weary miles, and calling, calling, calling, a' the way." He raised his voice again. Ye may hear me now Robbie Self, for I've come out from the never-never to do your bidding. And—I'm—tired." The voice whimpered like a fretful child's.

Walmsley's whisper came to Heaviside.

"You know the story. Can you get the drift of this?"

But Heaviside had stepped forward with an unexpected movement. He was standing at the edge of the water, and he lifted up his voice and spoke to the tottering figure beyond.

"It is the bidding of God that has brought you here to-night, Rake Jenkins. Robert Self will not answer you; no, not though you called to him with your last breath. But you were not brought here without purpose, and you know in your heart what that purpose is."

Walmsley had started as the voice rang out, but the accent of certainty in the tone told of Heaviside's confidence in his sudden action, and he waited, breathless. The figure of the old man straightened itself momentarily, but answered without sign of hesitation or surprise.

"Ay, ay! I know the purpose, but 'twas Robbie's ain voice that brought me here. And there would be them that would be ready to hear, to tell it to—I kenned that. Do ye come ower to me, sirs, for I am an old man to have come a' the weary miles, and there is not strength for another step left in me."

Heaviside's response was to crash through the undergrowth encircling the waterhole, and Walmsley, following at his heels, found himself brought to a standstill in the little clearing. His friend was kneeling on the ground with the old man's head upon his knee, and a hatful of water in his hand. The recumbent figure lay very still, but the eyes moved and some words straggled out from the feeble lips.

"But—I didna—think—twould be ye, Mr. Heaviside."

"My God, look at his feet!" said Walmsley. "He must have walked the breadth of Australia."

Heaviside gave one look, and averted his eyes. It was not a pleasant sight. Then he said:

"The man is dying of exhaustion. Can we move him, do you think?"

Walmsley would have answered, but the old man had turned his head at the suggestion, and he made a futile effort to struggle into a sitting posture.

"You will na move me, sirs. I was bidden to speak here, and 'tis here I must say it. I've not many words left, I'm thinking, and ye had better hearken while ye may."

His eyes sought theirs. Heaviside felt the clammy forehead, and nodded in reply. The moon had climbed high up into the sky now, and shone down fully. It showed the dying face as clearly as might have done the daylight, and it chased back the weird night shadows from the little group. The waterhole lay still in darkness, with only the faint gleam of reflected light upon its surface.

"It was when we camped here, driving Iverson's sheep from the north. I didna mind now how the talk came round to her, but Robbie was always one for never-never to do your bidding. And—I'm—tired." The voice whimpered like a fretful child's.

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Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Egg Oil for Rupture.

J. A. R., Decorah, Iowa: We reproduce once more the formula for egg oil, used as a rupture cure, and ask all who are interested to preserve it, and not write to have it printed again:

Boil 15 eggs hard, take out the yolks and cut them up in a skillet or frying-pan, put over a slow fire and stir constantly, gradually increasing the heat. It will soon dissolve into a creamy looking substance; then as the fire grows hotter it will rapidly turn brown, and look almost like coffee grounds. Now stir rapidly all the time; it will smoke terribly, and you will feel sure that it is all burned up, but keep at it patiently, and after a while it will dissolve into a black oil. Now strain it off and bottle it. This quantity will make over an ounce of oil.

Rub this oil on every night after lying down, being sure that the rupture is back in its place. Then every morning use a healing salve, made by melting together a little fresh (unsalted) butter with one quarter as much beeswax, and after melting add a few drops of oil of spike.

A Worthless Magnet.

"I have a steel horse shoe magnet that I wish to have magnetized, and I wish to know how to prepare it. I have tried it several different ways. It will take on the magnetism, but will not retain it."—J. C. B., Bridgeport, O.

The magnet cannot be made of good steel, otherwise when once magnetized it would retain the magnetism, unless heated. The probability is that it is iron instead of steel.

The Rupee.

"Is the rupee at par with silver, or with gold, or with neither of these metals? Please answer in Question Bureau, giving the authority on which your base your answer."—S. S. A., Angola, Ind.

The face value of the rupee, at the ratio of 16 to 1, is a fraction over 49 cents. Its bullion value on October 1, according to the Director of the Mint, printed in the Monthly Summary of the Finance and Commerce of the United States, issued by the Treasury department, was 19.6 cents. The latest quotation of its current value that we have seen made it about 32 cents. The fall in its purchasing power, which was causing distress all over India, was arrested by stopping its coinage. Resumption of free coinage would cause it to start downward again until it reached bullion value. As you see, it is not at par with either gold coin or silver bullion, being held at an artificial value by the limitation of its coinage.

Printer's Type.

"Please inform me and others by what printers' type, such as used in the body of the Blade, is bought and sold; by weight, alphabet or what, and what is the price?"—C. S., Bloomingdale, Ind.

Body type is bought by the pound. Typefounders understand the proportionate number of each letter and character used, and if you give an order for, say 100 or 400 pounds of such a face and size, the order will be properly assorted. The price per pound varies with the size of body. The smaller the size, the higher the price, because there are more individual types to the pound. There are three sizes used in the Weekly Blade: minion, for reading; nonpareil, for poetry, markets, etc., and agate, for small advertisements. The "list price" is 54 cents a pound for minion, 62 for nonpareil, and 72 for agate—but there are discounts allowed in proportion to the size of the order. Our minion and nonpareil faces are set on linotypes, which produce solid lines; and hence we do not use type except agate, and display letter, of course.

Concerning Prepositions.

"A says 'The chimney is on the house.' B says 'The chimney is to the house.' C says 'It is against the house, or by the house.' Which is right?"—C. B. M., Pleasant Retreat, W. Va.

It depends entirely on the idea intended to be expressed. It is common, also correct, to say the chimney is on the house. This refers, of course, to the portion projecting above the roof—the portion in sight. If the chimney is exterior, it can properly be said to be built against the house, but not by the house.

Zikoff, the Composer.

"I have a piece of music published in Germany, the title of which is 'Auf hoher Alp! Jodler,' written by Fr. Zikoff for the zither. What does the title mean, and how does Zikoff rank as a composer of music?"—E. M. D., Sand Run, O.

Literally translated the title of the piece is "On the High Alpine Mountains." Zikoff is not a famous composer, neither has his work given him much renown. His compositions were mostly light dance music, but never anything in the classic.

Shorthand and Typewriting.

"How long a time does it require to learn each, stenography and typewriting? What system of stenography is used by the most successful stenographers?"—A. J. C., New Lexington, O.

It depends entirely upon the education of the student, and his own mental capacity. Probably a year's hard work is the average time required to obtain a thorough knowledge of shorthand. A month or so will enable any one to handle a typewriter with ease and quickness. All system of shorthand now used are based on Pitman's. We cannot advertise text-books by specifying any particular one.

A Constitutional Pdovision.

"The text-book on civil government adopted for Missouri has this language: 'The President and Vice-President cannot be citizens of the same state.' Is this legally so? I hold it is so politically, but not legally."—J. F. K., Chapin, Mo.

The constitution of the United States, amendment 12, provides: "The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves."

If, last year, Hon. Garret A. Hobart had been an inhabitant of Ohio, the 23 Ohio electors would either have been obliged to vote for some one else than McKinley for President, in order to vote for Hobart, or else to vote for some one else than Hobart in order to vote for McKinley. They could not have voted for both, had they both been inhabitants of Ohio. In last year's election this would have made no difference, for McKinley and Hobart had 271 electoral votes, while a majority of the electors was 224, and the loss of 23 votes to either would still have left him a majority. But often it would throw the election into the House of Representatives.

To avoid this, the nominating conventions always nominate their candidates for President and Vice-President from different states. You will see it is a constitutional provision that the President and Vice President shall not be from the same state, and that is certainly "legal" provision. We do not understand your distinction between "politically" and "legally." This provision is constitutional, and the constitution is the highest form of law.

"Diana or Christ?"

"Will you please give a short description or explanation of one of your pictures, entitled 'Diana or Christ?' I got one of them from you, and it is much admired by all who chance to see it, and many questions are asked about the different figures represented in it, which I am not able to answer. Have you any more in stock?"—A. J. C., Cush, Neb.

The picture is a scene from the early centuries of Christianity. The girl is accused of being a Christian, and is commanded to throw incense upon the altar in front of the statue of Diana. This is the moment indicated in the picture. To do this would be to sacrifice to an idol; and the steadfast young Christian turns her eyes to heaven in silent prayer for strength to bear her martyrdom—which is, to be thrown to the wild beasts in the arena in the rear. At the left of the picture is the Roman magistrate waiting her answer; on his left is the statue of Diana, surrounded by the goddess's vestal virgins, one of whom—evidently a friend of the young maiden—holds out the open box of incense hesitatingly to her. A white bound bull, at left, looks calmly on. The lover of the girl leans over her right shoulder, begging her to do the little thing that will save her to him, indicating the incense with his left hand; the girl's right hand waves it away. Behind her is the accuser, with the accusation in his hand. A guard of soldiers is in the rear, and a Nubian slave stands at the extreme right of the picture.

We have no copies of the picture left.

The Hawaiian Question.

"Give reasons for and against the annexation of the Hawaiian islands."—J. W. B., Ethel, Mo.

The principal reasons assigned in favor of annexation are that the islands are certain to be absorbed by some stronger power; that Great Britain is very anxious to take them; that they are the "cross-roads of the Pacific," the key to its commerce, the portion of Polynesia nearest to us; they would be profitable; the whites there are nearly all of American birth or descent, and naturally desire annexation.

Those opposed base their opposition on the plea that we should annex nothing except territory on the continent contiguous to us; that the islands are 2,000 miles away, and that the population, aside from the whites, is not material of which good American citizens can be made.

The answer to this is, that other nations annex territory not contiguous, and that the first reason is thus no reason at all; that Hawaii is not nearly so far away as Alaska, which belongs to us, and is not contiguous; and that it is not necessary to make Hawaii a state, but leave it a territory, like Alaska.

Mail Order Business.

"I see by the Weekly Blade of the 18th, in answer to the question, Is mail order business legal? you answer in the affirmative. Is that to say that any one can manufacture anything, such as ink, yeast, medicine, etc., and advertise the same and be under no penalty whatever? My reason for asking is, that I have a medicine that has cured when the doctors had given up the patient. Can I do a mail order business with it? If not, why?"—Fifer, Clarion, Iowa.

A man has just the same right to sell articles by mail that he has to sell them over the counter of a store. Of course, you understand that the postal regulations forbid the mailing of liquids, because of the danger of breakage, and consequent damage to mail matter. You can sell a medicine by mail that is not a liquid, if the laws of your state do not forbid your making and selling it. Of course such a legitimate mail order business, not a fraudulent scheme. The laws are very severe against frauds carried on through the mails.

Spontaneous Combustion.

"Will you please state whether a man's breath will become so charged with alcohol as to catch fire, he being a constant drinker?"—W. H. J., Lowell, Iowa.

That is a disputed point. Some forty years ago, when Dickens's novel, "Bleak House," was first published, it started a discussion which raged over the whole medical world. One of the characters in that book, a hard drinker, was made to die of spontaneous combustion—the breath catching fire from an open grate, and the body being partly consumed. Dickens, in the preface of the book, stoutly maintained it could occur, but the opinion of the medical authorities was largely against him. We know of no authentic instances of the alcohol-charged breath catching fire.

Peninsulas Pointing Southward.

"Why do all of the large peninsulas of our continents point in a southerly direction?"—H. H. S., Eastmanville, Mich.

That is a thing no one knows. The land of the world is distributed in two huge masses, the center of distribution being near the North Pole. The irregular projections of the continental masses are therefore toward the south. But why the land was distributed in that way no man can tell, nor is there any method of reasoning it out.

Cloud Bursts.

"Last summer during a heavy rain storm there occurred what are termed by our people waterspouts or cloudbursts in dozens of places in this county, one or two making a hole in the ground large enough to bury a small house. There has been considerable speculation as to how they occur and what causes them; some claiming that, as dirt, rock, bushes and everything is swept out to a certain depth, the water is accompanied with electricity. All the information you can give will be eagerly received."—U. G. Y., Peach Tree, N. C.

The same causes produce waterspouts over land or water, and cloudbursts, as produce a tornado—so often miscalled "cyclone." The deluge of water which falls has a circular motion; the rain softens the soil, and the rush of the water and the circular motion dig the hollow you mention. Electricity is developed during these storms, as it is during a thunderstorm. It is the effect of the storm, not its cause; and it has nothing to do with excavating the soil. Lightning shatters, but it does not dig great holes.

Capital Punishment.

"How many states have abolished capital punishment, and has crime increased in those states?"—W. W., Hickerson, Tenn.

The only states in which the death penalty is forbidden by law are Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin. Its abolition has not decreased crime, but in some cases has led to murder to conceal a crime in which the perpetrator was engaged; the criminal arguing that if he should kill the person who detected him he might escape arrest. This is true in cases of burglary especially.

Watch Signs.

"Why is it that the hands on jewelers' clock signs always point to 8:17?"—H. H., Eaton, Ind.

Well, in the first place, they do not always point to that exact time. The reason the hands are painted generally in that form is that it leaves room above them to paint the jeweler's name. The custom did not originate from the hour of Lincoln's shooting, or of his death, for two reasons; first, that neither of these events took place at 8:17; second, signs were so painted long before the war.

Current Events of 1897.

"What current events of 1897 will be recorded as permanent history? Why?"—C. E. W., Cherry Vale, Kan.

We have not the time to go though the events of the year to make anything like an exhaustive study of them. If you will go through the files of The Blade for the year, you will find them all.

There is one difficulty in answering such a question. Events trivial in themselves, may prove to have been the starting-point of much greater ones in the future. For instance, the uprising of the hill tribes in India may in the future to be nothing of special importance again, it may prove to be the beginning of a war between India and Russia for the dominion of central Asia. Then the action of Spain in granting autonomy to Cuba, were it accepted, and the war ended, would prove a very important historical event; if Cuba achieves its independence, it will sink into insignificance.

Flag On the Capitol.

"Was there ever a time when the United States flag was not displayed on the United States capitol building during a session of the Congress? If so, when and for what reason?"—M. M., Signal, O.

We do not know. However, it is a matter of no practical importance. It is simply a custom to have the flag flying over the capitol when Congress is in actual session. If there was any time when it was not hoisted, it was probably due to some accident or derangement of the halyards.

Homestead Claims.

"Will you please tell me how to take up a homestead claim? What United States official has charge of the government lands?"—J. W. H., Brighton, Ia.

There are land offices in each state or territory in which there are public lands, and often several. You make your selection, and then register your claim in the land office nearest thereto.

DIFFICULT CYCLING.

James M. Jump, son of a minister of Independence, Mo., rides a bicycle, though one of his legs is off at the thigh and the other at the knee. He was run over by a car and one of

A PLUCKY BOY.

his legs has been replaced by a wooden one. With the aid of that he has succeeded in learning to ride a 26-inch frame. He mounts and ascends hills at will and carries his crutch with him.

FACTS ABOUT HEALTH

It is Easy to Keep Well if We Know How—Some of the Conditions Necessary to Perfect Health.

The importance of maintaining good health is easily understood, and it is really a simple matter if we take a correct view of the conditions required. In perfect health the stomach promptly digests food. The blood is employed to carry nourishment to the organs, nerves, muscles and tissues which need it. The first great essential for good health, therefore, is pure, rich blood. No medicine has such a record of cures as Hood's Sarsaparilla and it is because it is the one true blood purifier. Hundreds of people are alive and well today who would have been in their graves had they not taken Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is depended upon as a family medicine by thousands.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not inquire of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

Mr. F. Marion Crawford's latest novel which brings again to our knowledge the fortunes of the Saracinesca family, has all of the fascination which belonged to those which have gone before. In some ways it is a greater work, and this in what may be called, in a sense, a sequel, is rare indeed. That the public is prepared always to welcome anything from Mr. Crawford's pen is evident from the fact that his publishers, Macmillan & Co., of New York, were obliged to order a second edition before a single copy of the first had been delivered.

In Kedar's Tents, a novel by Henry Seton Merriman which has already appeared serially in The Bookman, and won popular favor, is a romance full of action, and, like many of the books just now attracting attention, has to do with historical events. The story is Mr. Merriman's best work so far done, and what few faults it has need not be dwelt upon. Dodd, Mead & Co. are his publishers.

A Damsel Errant is the title of Amelie Rives' latest contribution to choice literature. The fair story-teller has been abroad and has picked up some queer things for a tale, and has substituted for her former exotic Virginia style some quaint manner of expression. Heaven knows where discovered; otherwise she writes much as of yore.

Nevertheless, Amelia Rives has grown marvelously in power, both in description and in the delineation of character, adn her new book contains some things as strikingly beautiful as you can find in fiction these days. The moral tone is in fact exceedingly pure and many times lofty; then by some strange impulse she lapses into the extravagant or altogether meaningless manner of expression of her first days of authorship, and by this mistake she has all but spoiled an otherwise beautiful story. The publishers are J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

Interest in the old days, those so long past that they are only matters of history has lately deepened, as is evident from the large number of books which are put forth with a historical background. The Colonial Witch, by Frank Samuel Child, is a study of the black art in the colony of Connecticut, between the years 1640 and 1660. The author has evidently given a careful study of the conditions prevailing during that terrible season when no one knew how near was the time in which she might be denounced as a witch by her neighbor. The Baker & Taylor Co., of New York, published the book in neat style.

Arabella Ward has translated from the French of Anatole France The Crime of Sylvester Bonnard, which might be supposed from its title to be a sensational story, pure and simple, but which is not.

There are many fine touches in the book such as this author always gives and which the translator has managed to retain. Those who are fond of the best kind of French romances will be sure to like this one, which comes from T. Y. Crowell & Co., New York.

Lorraine! is a story of the Franco-Prussian War, by Robert W. Chambers. The title comes from the name of the heroine as well as the name of the province in which she lives, who is the supposed daughter of a marquis. She is strong in her loyalty to her country, pure in her thought and action and altogether a fascinating character. There is something of the rabid sensational in parts, but the movement is always rapid, so that the reader will not find it too offensive. A thrilling episode is the ride of Lorraine and Jack Mache through the forest, during which she was shot at and wounded but still rode on. The Harpers are the publishers.

A most interesting volume is one describing The Exploits of Myles Standish, by Henry Johnson. In the description of the first 26 years of his life of which very little is certainly known the writer has been compelled to use his imagination to some extent, telling, however, only probabilities. After Standish leaves his own country to come to America, the narrative follows the original records of the New Plymouth Colony. The chief source of information was the manuscript account of Governor Bradford's account of the Mayflower's voyage and the history of Plymouth. The volume is carefully illustrated with several full page engravings. D. Appleton & Company, of New York, are the publishers.

A little book with the attractive title of Brotherhood, further defined as Nature's Law, comes from the author and publisher, Mr. Burcham Harding, 144 Madison avenue, New York city. In the preface the aim of the writer is set forth to be to present simply and clearly the basis of right conduct, demonstrating that it is embedded in the heart of nature. The moral law, he says, is as firmly fixed as the heavens and the earth, and cannot change. Until mankind recognizes this fact and moulds its actions in accordance therewith, suffering and strife will continue.

L. C. Page & Company, Boston, issue a series of small volumes of poetry and among them is Song Yeanie, by Anne Fellows Johnston and Albion Fellows Bacon. It is dedicated "To Her Mother," which at once enlists sympathy.

A pretty little volume is one for young people entitled The Prince of the Pin Elves, by Charles Lee Sleight, and illustrated by Amy M. Sacker. It is a quaint conceit which makes the pin elves gather up all the pins which mortals lose or throw away. The boy Harry finds their home, has strange creatures and finally accompanies him home where he meets with some funny experiences. After that he went again alone, was taken prisoner by the elves, and sent down to work with the gnomes. What followed may be left to the boy and girl reader to find out. The book is published by L. C. Page & Company, Boston.

The Ian Maclaren Year Book is made up of quotations from Mr. Watson's works, one for each day in the year. The selections seem to have been carefully made, and those who admire this author will find the volume a good one to lie upon the table where it can be easily reached and the day's paragraph read before undertaking the work of the day. It is issued by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York City.

A book for photographers, amateur and professionals, is one entitled Sunlight and Shadow, edited by W. I. Lincoln Adams. The author has collected from The Photographic Times, The American Annual of Photography, and other sources, articles and illustrations by the best authorities on Photographic Landscape and Studio Art, including, also, some papers and illustrations of his own, in the hope that they may help, by precept and example, the photographer who desires to advance in pictorial photography. The book contains one hundred exquisite half-tone engravings, and the writers are as follows: Dr. Weldon Champney, Alfred J. Stieglitz, P. H. Robinson, Walter E. Woodbury, Xanthus Smith, Dr. J. W. Bemis, W. A. Fraser, Dr. Hemingway, and others. This beautiful volume has put up in handsome form, bound in cloth and in a box, by the Baker & Taylor Co., New York.

Nature's Diary is another of those books which are made up of selections, one for each day of the year. This one is compiled by Francis H. Allen and brought out by Houghton, Mifflin & Company, of Boston. On the right hand pages appears a calendar of the arrival of birds and the first blooming of flowers with a few miscellaneous notes, thus showing exactly what nature has in store for us through the passing seasons. The volume is prettily illustrated.

The Mystery of Choice, by Robert W. Chambers, is a little volume in clear type upon cream paper, making it pleasant for the eyes, and containing seven complete stories about Breton life, and full of love and hate and mystery. They are entirely out of every day life, and for that reason will attract readers who like the weird and horrible. The following are the titles of these stories: The Purple Emperor, Pompe Funebre, The Messenger, The White Shadow, Passeur, A Mater of Interest, and Envoi. D. Appleton & Co., New York, are the publishers.

In the Self and Sex Series, brought out by the Vir Publishing Company, of Philadelphia, is one entitled What a Young Girl Ought to Know, by Dr. Mary Wood-Allen, the national superintendent of the purity department of the W. C. T. U. Those familiar with the work of this author do not need to be told that this little book contains wise advice to mothers, given in a delicate, loving way, which cannot fail to be convincing. This book will be noticed more at length later on, but it is one that should be in the hands of parents everywhere.

The New Humphrey Calendar for 1898 contains twelve fac-similes of water-color designs by Maud Humphrey. Those who are familiar with this lady's work will know that these designs are both artistic and beautiful. Each page corresponds to a month of the year, with the season.

The Count of Nideck, by Ralph Browning Fiske, is one of L. C. Page & Co.'s new publications. It cannot be said to be intensely interesting—only a weird sort of tale of an ancient German family that had a trace of the blood of wolves in their veins, and of how a young German scholar found out what made them act so queerly, exorcised the animal spirit that disturbed the Nidecks, and married a beautiful descendant of the race. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.

Stanley Waterloo's last novel is entitled The Story of Ab: A Tale of the Time of the Cave Man, which at once tells the prospective reader that he is to be taken in history far backward, to the time which Mr. Waterloo asserts was many ages before the civilization of Egypt. There was then, he says, a race of men who inhabited England, Ireland and France, existing in caves, in which has been found evidences of the way in which they lived. Taking these things, slight as they are as a basis, he has pictured what he calls a primitive man, his wife and his children. Ab is the hero, and he is shown as full of simplicity, courage and truth, while Lightfoot, his wife, is an idealized savage woman. Yet in the characters, Mr. Waterloo makes evident, are the same passions which rend humanity to-day, and their action is made vividly real. The volume is one of interest, and challenges attention. It is published by Way & Williams, Chicago.

The series of Colonial Tracts which are in the course of publication by George P. Humphrey, Rochester, N. Y., are very valuable to the history student. The one for October has upon its title page the following: Nova Britannia: Offering Most Excellent Fruits by Planting in Virginia; Exciting All Such as be Well Affected to Further the Same. London: Printed for Samuel Macham, and Are To Be Sold at His Shop in Paul's Churchyard, at the Sign of the Hul-Head, 1609.

The November number is this: The New Life of Virginia: Declaring the Former Success and Present State of That Plantation, Being the Second Part of Nova Britannia. Published by Authority of His Majesty's Council of Virginia. London: Imprinted by William Kenston, for William Welby, Dwelling at the Sign of the Swan, in Paul's Churchyard, 1612.

Baboo Hurry Bungsho Jobbejee, B. A. That is the title of F. Anstey's latest effort to be funny. It may be his last, for it would be quite wonderful for any humor to survive in an author after such an expenditure and no adequate returns. The fact is, the stock must have been pretty low when Anstey set about this last book, for he crowded it all into the title. Mr. Jabberjee was new in England and had some experiences that one can imagine seemed very amusing to him. Unfortunately for the reader, they did not have the humor all rung out of them ages ago. He was just from India, and would have been interested and surprised, no doubt, to hear that the Dutch had taken Holland. The book is published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

A Colonial Free Lance is another historical story of the early revolutionary times, by Chauncey C. Hotchkiss, the author of the strong story entitled In Defiance of the King. In this present tale is one told by the captain of an American schooner bound from Norfolk to London with a cargo of scrap lead to be turned into bullets, and 500 pounds in good British gold secretly built into the hull beneath the cargo. His adventures as a free lance are well described, as also those of the brave, the beautiful Gertrude King, the heroine. The varying incidents are described in such a vivid way the reader is thrilled by the representations of the old times. The Appletons are the publishers.

Little Grown-Ups is a book for the children and many a little heart would be made glad the coming holidays by such a beautiful gift. The author, Elizabeth S. Tucker, who has written books for children before, has given here a series of stories and poems sure to interest. It has numerous full page color plates, after paintings in water colors by Maud Humphrey. The book is made more attractive by decorative borders and other designs. The publishers are Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York.

The Sarony Calendar is truly a work of art which also comes from the F. A. Stokes Company. Upon each of the large leaves are full length photographs of popular actresses, taken by Sarony in some leading part costume. There are six of them, as follows: Ada Rehan, as Lady Teazle; Mary Anderson, as Hermione; Ellen Terry, as Olivia; Julia Marlowe, as Viola; Lillian Russell, as the Grand Duchess, and Fanny Davenport as Cleopatra.

Pippins and Cheese is the name of a volume published by Way & Williams, of Chicago. Why the author, Ella W. Peattie, should select such a title for a collection of stories full of tragedy passes my comprehension, unless it is a cheap way of attracting attention. There is nothing pleasant in any one of them, but they are simply horrible and have not even an artistic finish to recommend them.

Among the Christmas books comes The First Christmas Tree by Henry Van Dyke, a pretty story of the forest, illustrated from original drawings by Howard Pyle. The story is divided into four parts, the first telling how the woodsman called the young Prince Gregor to go forth "a subduer of the wilderness, a woodsman of the faith." The second is how the pilgrims he follows the forest trail; the third describes the shadow of the Thunder-oak and the fourth the felling of the tree. Of course the whole is typical of the fight with the world, the flesh and the devil. It is finely written. The Scribners are the publishers.

A beautiful volume from Raphael Tuck & Sons, New York, is an illustrated edition of Hamlet. It is a quarto in size, and upon every page is one or two drawings full of spirit and in character with the text. Beside these are full page illustrations in color. The paper is a soft cream color, and the typography bold and clear. It is bound neatly in green and gold.

A Big Thing for Jones.

"More bad luck," said the president of the Gas Trust company.

"What's the matter now?" asked the vice president.

"Jones, that fellow who used to keep books for us, is going to run for the city council. It'll take at least two per cent of our earnings to keep him quiet."—Chicago News.

HE SENDS IT FREE.

A Never Failing Remedy That Makes a Man Young Again.

TRUE MANLINESS QUICKLY REPLACES THE WORN OUT NERVES AND VIGOR.

When a man's strength and vigor is slowly wasting away from nervous weakness, the mental forebodings are ten times worse than the most severe pain. There is no let-up to the mental suffering day or night. For years the writer rolled and tossed on the troubled sea of Nervous Debility, Emissions, Lame Back, and the various other troubles of Sexual Weakness, until it was a question whether he had not better take a dose of poison and thus end all his troubles. But providential inspiration came to his aid in the shape of a combination of medicines that completely restored his general health and enlarged his weak, emaciated parts to natural size and vigor, and he now declares that a man, young or old, who will take the trouble to send his name and address may have Free full particulars of this wonderful home treatment which quickly restored to him full strength and vigor of youth. Now when I say free I mean absolutely without cost, because I want every weakened man to get the benefit of my experience.

There are thousands of men suffering the mental tortures of weakened manhood who would be cured at once could they but get such a remedy as the one that cured me. Send for it, and learn that there are a few things on earth although they cost nothing to get are worth a fortune to some men, and mean a lifetime of happiness to most of us. Write to Thomas Slater, Box 1853, Masonic Temple, Kalamazoo, Mich., and the information will be mailed in a plain, sealed envelope.

It isn't much trouble for a really healthy man to be good humored. Jollity and exhuberant health are a proverbial combination. The hearty man who is always laughing doesn't have any trouble with his digestion. It has been said that laughing makes people healthy. The truth is that health makes people laugh.

It is impossible to estimate the tremendous influence of health upon human character. A man with a headache will not be in a happy, contented frame of mind. A man who suffers from a weak stomach and an impaired digestion will sit and grumble through the best meal ever prepared. A bilious man who is not a bore, is deserving of a place in a museum. A nervous man who is not petulent and fault-finding is a curiosity. All these conditions lead to grave diseases, when the victim becomes not only disagreeable, but dependent as well. A wise wife will realize that while the old saying that a "man's heart is in his stomach," is not literally true, it is a fact that his stomach sweetens or sours his character according as it is healthy or unhealthy. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the best of medicines for the conditions described. It makes the weak stomach strong, the impaired digestion perfect, invigorates the liver, purifies and enriches the blood and tones the nerves. It tears down half-dead, inert tissues and replaces them with the firm muscular tissues of health. It builds new and healthy nerve fibres and brain cells. It dissipates nervousness and melancholy and imparts mental elasticity and courage. It is the best of all known medicines for nervous disorders.

"Through your skillful treatment I am once more a well man," writes J. N. Arnold, Esq., of Gandy, Logan Co., Nebr. "I suffered for years and could not find relief until I commenced taking your 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I suffered with constipation and torpidity of liver which resulted in irritation of the prostate and inflammation of the bladder. I had only taken one bottle when I found great relief. The medicine has effected a permanent cure."

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

To Grow Peppermint.

B. L. C., Tennessee: The editor does not know enough about the planting and growing of peppermint to give you the information you seek. It is grown extensively in Michigan and one or two Western states. Will some one who knows how peppermint is grown and the method of manufacturing peppermint write a communication to The Blade on the subject? The editor will take it as a favor.

Feeding Young Sows.

E. H. McL., Pennsylvania: Oats, wheat and barley ground together, or corn and millfeed, with a daily ration of small potatoes, ruthbagas, parsnips, carrots or beets in addition. The ration should not be confined to corn alone. In the mild season of the year, the sow should have plenty of range, with a run in blue grass, orchard grass or red or white clover. In the fall, grain and pumpkins boiled together are good. Gestation in the sow is accomplished in three months, three weeks and three days, as the average time. There is a variation sometimes of twenty and even thirty days. Your sow will farrow in the middle of November will farrow in March. Charcoal and salt in small quantities may be given. After farrowing give the sow all the milk and slops she will drink up clean for the first week. Skimmed milk, not too sour, is excellent. The next best thing is two quarts of middlings, scalded with two or three quarts of boiling water and the pail afterwards filled up with water sufficient to cool it to the temperature of new milk. After the first week, the sow should have richer food—say two quarts of fine middlings and a quart of oats or corn meal, three times a day. When two weeks old, begin to feed the pigs in a small trough where the sow can not get at it. Put in this a half-pint or so of sweet milk. Clean the trough before fresh food is given. Give three or four tablespoonsfuls of oat meal, increasing in quantity daily. At the time of weaning, say in ten or twelve weeks, if the sow is strong, but if not, the pigs should be weaned in two weeks, allow the pigs to return to the sow at the expiration of 12 hours, and again in 24 hours. One or two pigs may be left with the sow for a week or so after the others have been removed. After the pigs in about six weeks.

Lice on Cattle.

E. M. C., Columbus, Pa.: Louisiness generally manifests itself in winter or spring, when the animal is seen to rub the infested parts. The treatment is: Curry the cow as you would a horse to get out all the loose hairs. Then clean up the stall and burn the straw, and hair that has come from the cow. Next apply a little lamp oil to parts infested. In an hour rub off thoroughly with warm water and soap. Dry well and apply this: Tobacco, ½ lb., water 1 gallon. Steep for two hours and apply the infusion while warm. In about ten days repeat the application to kill the nits.

Sweeny in Mares.

J. A. D., Indiana: When a horse or mare has atrophy of the muscles of the shoulder, the seat of the trouble is nearly always traceable to some other part. It usually results from injury to the knee, the foot, etc. If the animal picks the foot up clear from the ground the injury is not in the shoulder. If, however, the leg drags with the toe on the ground, the injury may be looked for in that locality. Examine the foot carefully; also the knee and other parts of the leg. When shoulder lameness really does exist by reason of the animal slipping, falling or striking some object when moving, if the case is of recent date, bathe the part well with acitate of lead, 1 oz.; vinegar, 1 pint, and water 1 pint. If there is fever it must be reduced. Afterward apply to the joint of the shoulder powdered cantharides, ½ oz. lard,2 ozs. Mix and rub well in. The animal must be tied short for four or five hours to keep it from getting its mouth against the blister. Grease should be applied below the blister to prevent escaping matter from blistering the leg. If the blister is not efficient a seaton should be applied, which should be done by a veterinary surgeon. The animal should have at least six weeks' rest.

Milk Comes Down in Lumps.

C. S. Illinois: The blood of your cow is out of condition. Give her ¾ lb. sulphate of magnesia dissolved in warm water by means of a drenching horn. This may be followed by a bran mash for two days. Then give her a daily dose of hyposulphate of soda for two weeks. This will free the system from acidity. Powder and sprinkle over a mess of scalded bran, or some cut feed.

Cow Aborts.

C. W. S., North Dakota:—The causes of abortion are numerous. In non-contagious abortion, chronic diseases of the abdominal organs, presence of tubercles on the ovaries, fatty degeneration of the heart, indigestion, privation of water, ice-cold water, green, succulent grass, to which the cow is unaccustomed, feeding too freely on clover, potatoes, pumpkins or apples that have been frozen, too dry or too stimulating food, putrid, stagnant water, ergoted grasses and many other things are causes of abortion. In contagious abortion a bull may spread the disease in an entire dairy herd by serving an aborted cow. A good cause of abortion in a dairy, is the odor of the lochia or uterine discharge of a cow in abortion. It is very offensive to other cows. They become excited, bellow and act wildly. In a few days cows in pregnancy abort, and thus the disease is spread through the herd. In the case of your cow, she no doubt aborted through fret in being separated from other cows. Being picketed by herself she becme fretful. It will be a hard matter to overcome the disposition to abort, as she has done it twice. Favorable results may be reached by feeding her generously. Keep her from the attention of the bull until she is three or four times in heat. Have her stall so constructed that it will be higher at the back than the front, and wash the back part of the stall with a solution of five ounces of sulphate of copper in one gallon of water. Repeat this at least once a week. With this treatment, if the cow aborts again, you cannot depend upon her reaching her full time of calving.

Chickens Dying.

W. F. H., Kansas:—The trouble with your chickens was disease of the liver. This is brought on by over-feeding, feeding with too stimulating food condition powders, lack of grit, and not a sufficient quantity of green food. Plenty of range on fine days, all the grass they will eat, a sufficient quantity of grit, and cutting down their feed one-half will bring the remaining chickens around all right. They must have clean quarters with pure fresh water. An onion and fresh meat scraps chipped in with wheat bran that has been well boiled is a good morning meal. Do not over-feed, is a cardinal idea in raising fowls. The fowl house must be absolutely clean.

Colic in Horse.

T. E. C., Pennsylvania: Spasmodic colic is pain in the bowels, from the violent, spasmodic contraction and cramp of the muscular coat of the bowels. Improper food, sudden changes of diet, exhaustion from overwork, drinking cold water when heated or exhausted, constipation, worms, ulcers of the stomach, irritating, condition powders, hair ball, and stricture of the intestines, have all been set down as leading to the complaint. Invagination is likely to occur in a horse suffering from spasm of the bowels, or in a horse when a small portion of the gut is paralyzed. Invagination is most frequent in the small guts. This is the slipping of a portion of the intestines into another portion. It may be two or three inches only, or it may measure several feet. It is essential in spasmodic or cramp colic, to give something for relief at once. Almost any hot stimulant may be given—a hot, stiff glass of brandy or whisky toddy, hot ale and ginger or hot water and ginger may be administered. All veterinarians agree that a copious warm soap and water enema should be given, and repeated every half hour, if necessary. These injections into the rectum of soap and water should be lukewarm and three to four quarts given at a time. If the cramp is due to irritants in the bowels, a pint of linseed oil should be given. Perspiration should be induced by applying blankets dipped in very hot water in which a small quantity of turpentine has been added, should be placed around the belly and then covered with dry blankets. The blankets must be changed frequently so that the heat may be kept up. There is danger in using blankets as neglect to keep the belly warm may have fatal results. Stimulating liniments or mustard water will answer, keeping the belly covered with a blanket. Chloral hydrate is an excellent remedy in spasmodic colic to be given in a dose of one-half pint water as a drench. A very common remedy is sulphuric ether and laudanum, of each 2 ozs. in half a pint of linseed oil. Mr. Chawner prefers the following mixture, which he says has never been known to fail in a genuine case of colic: Chloroform, 1 oz.; laudanum, 1 oz.; sulphuric ether, 1 oz.; linseed oil, 8 ozs.

Flatulent colic, tympanitis or bloat, is an accumulation of gas in the intestines and occurs more often in spring and fall than at any other time. Horses fed on corn are subject to these attacks, on account of the food fermenting. Sudden changes in food, too long fasting, and food then given while the animal is exhausted, large quantities of green food, food that has lain in the manger and become sour, or anything that will produce indigestion, will cause flatulent colic. It is a dangerous disease. In this disease the treatment is different from cramp colic. Alkaline to neutralize the gasses must be quickly given. A good domestic remedy is baking soda, in doses of from 2 to 6 ozs. If this fails, give chloride of lime, in half ounce doses. "Relaxants and antispasmodics," says Veterinary Surgeon Michener, "are also beneficial in this form of colic. Chloral hydrate not only possesses these qualities, but it is also an anti-ferment and a pain reliever. It is then particularly well adapted in the treatment of wind colic, and should be given in the same sized doses and in the same manner directed for spasmodic colic." Give a physic as soon as possible of 1 pint raw linseed oil and 1 oz. laudanum; or, a dose of Barbadoes aloes will answer the purpose. The body must be kept warm, by using blankets as stated in spasmodic colic. The blankets, if used, should be removed every five or ten minutes. Warm water injections should be given. As the horse to which you refer died of enteritis, an inflammation of the bowels which in trouble is a continuation of spasmodic or flatulent colic, it may be here said that in bowel compaint, whether of colic, intussusception or obstruction, the temperature rises, the pulse gets beyond 80, usually between this and 150, and less full in volume. The pain is constant and intense. If the disease goes on, delirium sets in. If there is no arrest of the disease, the pulse runs up to 100, and a fatal convulsive struggle ends his life. In a well established case of enteritis, recovery is impossible. But effort should be made to save the animal before it is too late. Abstract blood from the jugular and follow this at once with a full opiate. Two ounces tincture of opium must be given every 12 hours, for at least four days, should the animal live. Give a copious injection of soap and water after the bleeding and opiate, which must be given every six hours to keep the rectum unloaded. Important treatment is the fomentation of the abdomen. Blankets

Talmage's Sermon.

MORE SENSE NEEDED.

The World Could Do Better in Matters of Religion.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Dr. Talmage in this discourse advocates more practical wisdom in efforts at doing good, and assails some of the absurdities in church architecture and management. The text is Luke xvi., 8: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

That is another way of saying that Christians are not so skillful in the manipulation of spiritual affairs as worldlings are skillful in the management of temporalities. I see all around me people who are alert, earnest, concentrated, and skillful in monetary matters, who in the affairs of the soul are laggards, insane, inert. The great want of the world is more common sense in matters of religion. If one-half of the skill and forcefulness employed in financial affairs was employed in disseminating the truths of Christ and trying to make the world better, within ten years the last Juggernaut would fall, the last throne of oppression upset, the last iniquity tumble, and the anthem that was chanted over Bethlehem on Christmas night would be echoed and re-echoed from all nations and kindred and people: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."

Some years ago, on a train going toward the Southwest, as the porter of the sleeping car was making up the berths at the evening-tide, I saw a man kneel down to pray. Worldly people looked on as much as to say, "What does this mean?" I suppose the most of the people in the car thought that the man was either insane, or that he was a fanatic; but he disturbed no one when he knelt, and he disturbed no one when he arose. In after conversation with him I found out that he was a member of a church in a Northern city, that he was a seafaring man, and that he was on his way to New Orleans to take command of a vessel. I thought then, as I think now, that ten such men—men with such courage for God as that man had—ten such men would bring the whole city to Christ; a thousand such men would bring this whole land to God; ten thousand such men, in a short time, would bring the whole earth into the kingdom of Jesus. That he was successful in worldly affairs, I found out. That he was skillful in spiritual affairs, you are well persuaded. If one had the courage, the unaided, the alertness, the acumen, the inpluck, the common sense in matters of duster the affairs of the soul, that they have in matters of the world, this would be a very different kind of earth in which to live.

In the first place, my friends, we want more common sense in the building and conduct of churches. The idea of adaptiveness is always paramount in any other kind of structure. If bankers meet together, and they resolve upon putting up a bank, the bank is especially adapted to banking purposes; if a manufacturing adaptiveness is not always the question in the rearing of churches. In many of our churches we want more light, more rooms, more ventilation, more comfort. Vast sums of money are expended on ecclesiastical structures, and men sit down in them, and you ask a man how he likes the church; he says: "I like it very well, but I can't hear." As though a shawl factory were good for everything but making shawls. The voice of the preacher dashes against the pillars. Men sit down under the shadows of the Gothic arches, and shiver, and feel they must be getting religion, or something else, they feel so uncomfortable.

O my friends! we want more common sense in the rearing of churches. There is no excuse for lack of light when the heavens are full of it, no excuse for lack of fresh air when the world swims in it. It ought to be an expression, not only of our spiritual happiness, but of our physical comfort, when we say: "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord God of hosts! A day in thy courts is better than a thousand."

Again I remark: We want more common sense in the obtaining of religious hope. All men understand that in order to succeed in worldly directions they must concentrate. They think on that one object, on that one subject, until their mind takes fire with the velocity of their own thoughts. All their acumen, all their strategy, all their wisdom, all their common sense they put in that one direction, and they succeed. But how seldom it is true in the matter of seeking after God! While no man expects to accomplish anything for this world without concentration and enthusiasm, how many there are expecting after a while to get into the kingdom of God without the use of any such means.

A miller in California, many years ago, picked up a sparkle of gold from the bed of a stream which turned his mill. He held up that sparkle of gold until it beckoned nations. Tens of thousands of people left their homes. They took their blankets, and their pickaxes, and their pistols and went to the wilds of California. Cities sprang up suddenly on the Pacific coast. Merchants put aside their elegant apparel, and put on the miner's garb. All the land was full of the talk about gold. Gold in the eyes, gold in the ears, gold in the wake of ships, gold in the streets—gold, gold, gold!

Word comes to us that the mountain of God's love is full of gold; that men have been digging there, and have brought up gold and amethyst, and carbuncle, and jasper, and sardonyx, and chrysoprasus, and all the precious stones out of which the walls of heaven were builded. Word comes of a man, who, digging in that mine for one hour, has brought up treasures worth more than all the stars that keep vigil over our sick and dying world.

Is it a bogus company that is formed? Is it undeveloped territory? Oh, no; the story is true. There are hundreds and thousands of people who would be willing to rise and testify that they have discovered that gold, and have it in their possession. Nothwithstanding all this, what is the circumstance? One would suppose that the announcement would send people in great excitement up and down our streets, that at midnight men would knock at your door, asking how they may get those treasures. Instead of that, many of us put our hands behind our back, and walk up and down in front of the mine of eternal riches, and say: "Well, if I am to be saved, I will be saved; and if I am to be lost, I will be lost, and there is nothing to do about it."

Why, my brother, do you not do that way in business matters? Why do you not to morrow go to your store and sit and fold your arms, and say, "If those goods are to be sold, they will be sold; and if they are not to be sold, they will not be sold; there is nothing for me to do about it." No, you despatch your agents, you print your advertisements, you adorn your show windows, you push those goods, you use the instrumentality. Oh, that men were as wise in the matter of the soul as they are wise in the matter of dollars and cents!

This doctrine of God's sovereignty, how it is misquoted, and spoken of as though it were an iron chain which bound us hand and foot for time and for eternity, when, so far from that, in every fiber of your body, in every faculty of your mind, in every passion of your soul, you are a free man—a free man—and it will no more to-morrow be a matter of choice whether you shall go to business through Pennsylvania avenue, or some other street; it will be no more a matter of choice with you to-morrow whether you shall go to Philadelphia or New York, or stay at home, than it is this hour a matter of free choice, whether you will accept Christ or reject him.

In all the army of banners there is not one conscript. Men are not to be dragooned into heaven. Among all the tens of thousand of the Lord's soldiery there is not one man but will tell you: "I chose Christ; I wanted him; I desired to be in his service; I am not a conscript—I am a volunteer." Oh, that men had the same common sense in the matter of religion that they have in the matters of the world—the same concentration, the same push, the same enthusiasm! In the one case a secular enthusiasm; in the other a consecrated enthusiasm.

Again I remark: We want more common sense in the building up and enlarging of our Christian character. There are men who have for forty years been running the Christian race, and they have not run a quarter of a mile. No business man would be willing to have his investments unaccumularive. If you have a dollar your expect that dollar to come home bringing another dollar on its back. What would you think of a man who would invest ten thousand dollars in a monetary institution, then go off for five years, make no inquiry in regard to the investment, then come back, step up to the cashier of the institution, and say: "Have you kept those ten thousand dollars safely that I lodged with you?" but asking no question about interest or about dividend? Why, you say, "That is not common sense." Neither is it, but that is the way we act in matters of the soul. We make a far more important investment than ten thousands dollars. We invest our soul. Is it accumulative? Are we growing in grace? Are we getting better? Are we getting worse? God declares many dividends, but we do not collect them; we do not ask about them; we do not want them. Oh, that in this matter of accumulation we were as wise in the matters of the soul as we are in the matters of the world!

How little common sense in the reading of the Scriptures! We get any other book, and we open it, and we say, "Now what does this book mean to teach me? It is a book on astronomy; it will teach me astronomy. It is a book on political economy; it will teach me political economy." Taking up this Bible, do we ask ourselves what it means to teach? It means to do just one thing—get the world converted and get us all to heaven. That is what it proposes to do. But instead of that we go into the Bible as botanists to pick flowers, or we go as pugilists to get something to fight other Christians with, or we go as logicians trying to sharpen our mental faculties for a better argument, and we do not like this about the Bible, and we do not like that, and we do not like the other thing. What would you think of a man lost on the mountains. Night has come down; he can not find his way home, and he sees a light in a mountain cabin, and goes to it; he knocks at the door; the mountaineer comes out and finds the traveler and says, "Well, here I have a lantern; you can take it, and it will guide you on the way home;" and suppose that traveler should say, "I don't like that lantern, I don't like the handle of it, there are ten or fifteen things about it I don't like; if you can't give me a better lantern than that I won't have any?"

Now, God says this Bible is to be a lamp to our feet and a lantern to our path, to guide us through the midnight of this world to the gates of the celestial city. We stop and say we do not like this about it, and we do not like that, and we do not like the other thing. Oh, how much wiser we would be if by its holy light we found our way to our everlasting home! Then, we do not read the Bible as we read other books. We read it perhaps four or five minutes just before we retire at night. We are weary and sleepy, so somnolent we hardly know which end of the book is up. We drop our eye perhaps on the story of Samson and the foxes, or upon some genealogical table, important in its place, but stirring no more religious emotion than the announcement that somebody begat someone else and he begat somebody else, instead of opening the book and saying: "Now I must read for my immortal life, my eternity is involved in this book."

How little we use common sense in prayer! We say, "Oh, Lord, give me this," and "Oh, Lord, give me that," and we do not expect to get it, or getting it, we do not know we have it. We have no anxiety about it. We do not watch and wait for its coming. As a merchant, you telegraph or you write to some other city for a bill of goods. You say, "Send me by such express or by such a steamer, or by such a rail train." The day arrives. You send your wagon to the depot or to the wharf. The goods do not come. You immediately telegraph, "What is the matter with those goods? We haven't received them. Send them right away. We want them now, or we don't want them at all." And you keep writing, and you keep telegraphing, and keep sending your wagon to the depot, or to the express office, or to the wharf, until you get the goods.

In matters of religion we are not so wise as that. We ask certain things to be sent from heaven. We do not know whether they come or not. We have not any special anxiety as to whether they come or not. We may get them and may not get them. Instead of at 7 o'clock in the morning saying, "Have I got that blessing?" at 12 o'clock, noonday, asking, "Have I got that blessing?" at 7 o'clock in the evening saying, "Have I received that blessing?" and not getting it, pleading, pleading—begging, begging—asking, asking until you get it. Now, my brethren, is not that common sense. If we ask a thing from God, who has sworn by his eternal throne that he will do that which we ask, is it not common sense that we should watch and wait until we get it?

But I remark again; we want more common sense in doing good. Oh, how many people there are who want to do good, and they are dead failures! Why is it? They do not exercise the same tact, the same ingenuity, the same stratagem, the same common sense, in the work of Christ that they do in worldly things. Otherwise they would succeed in this direction as well as they succeed in the other. There are many men who have an arrogant way with them, although they may not feel arrogant in their soul. Or they have a patronizing way. They talk to a man of the world in a manner which seems to say, "Don't you wish you were as good as I am? Why, I have to look clear down before I can see you, you are so far beneath me." That manner always disgusts, always drives men away from the kingdom of Jesus Christ, instead of bringing them in.

When I was a lad I was one day in a village store, and there was a large group of young men there full of frolicking and fun, and a Christian man came in, a very good Christian man, and without any introduction of the subject, and while they were in great hilarity, said to one of them: "George, what is the first step of true wisdom?" George looked up and said: "Every man to mind his own business'" Well, it was a very rough answer, but it was provoked. Religion had been hurled in there as though it were a bombshell. It would be natural in the presentation of religion to the world. Do you suppose that Mary, in her conversations with Christ, lost her simplicity? or that Paul, thundering from Mars' Hill, or the pulpit tone? Why is it people cannot talk as naturally in prayer meeting and on religious subjects as they do in worldly circles? Never no one ever succeeds in any kind of Christian work unless he works naturally. We want to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ, who plucked a poem from the grass of the field. We all want to imitate him who talked with farmers about the man who went forth to sow, and talked with the fishermen about the drawn net that brought in fish of all sorts, and talked with the vine dresser about the idler in the vineyard, and talked with the newly affianced about the marriage supper, and talked with the man cramped in money matters about the two debtors, and talked with the woman about the yeast that leavened the whole lump, and talked with the shepherd about the lost sheep. Oh, we might gather even the stars of the sky and twist them like forget-me-nots in the garland of Jesus. We must bring everything to him—the wealth of language, the tenderness of sentiment, the delicacy of morning dew, the saffron of floating cloud, the tangled surf of the tossing sea, the bursting thunder guns of the storm's bombardment. Yes, every star must point down to him, every hellotrope must breathe his praise, every drop in the summer shower must flash his glory, all the tree branches of the forest must thrum their music in the grand march which shall celebrate a world redeemed.

Now, all this being so, what is the commonsense thing for you and me to do? What we do I think will depend upon three facts—three great facts:

The first fact, that sin has ruined us. It has blasted body, mind and soul. We want no Bible to prove that we are sinners. Any man who is not willing to acknowledge himself an imperfect and a sinful being is simply a fool and not to be argued with. We all feel that sin has disorganized our entire nature. Another fact is that Christ came to reconstruct, to restore, to revise, to correct, to redeem. That is a second fact. The third fact is that the only time we are sure Christ will pardon us is the present. Now, what is the common-sense thing for us to do in view of these three facts? You will all agree with me to quit sin, take Christ, and take him now.

Suppose some business man in whose skill you had perfect confidence should tell you that to-morrow, Monday morning, between 11 and 12 o'clock, you could by a certain financial transaction make five thousand dollars, but that on Tuesday perhaps you might make it, but there would not be any positiveness about it, and on Wednesday there would not be so much, and Thursday less, Friday less, and so on less and less—when would you attend to the matter? Why, your common sense would dictate, "Immediately I will attend to the matter, between 11 and 12 o'clock to-morrow, Monday morning, for then I can surely accomplish it, but on Tuesday I may not, and on Wednesday there is less prospect and less and less. I will attend to it to-morrow." Now, let us bring our common sense in this matter of religion. Here are the hopes of the gospel. We may get them now. To-morrow we may get them, and we may not. Next day we may and we may not. The prospect less and less and less and less. The only sure time now—now. I would not talk to you in this way if I did not know that Christ was able to save all the people. I would not go into a hospital and tear off the bandages from the wounds if I had no balm to apply. I would not have the face to tell a man he is a sinner unless I had at the same time the authority for saying he may be saved.

Suppose in Venice there is a Raphael, a faded picture, great in its time, bearing some marks of its greatness. History describes that picture. It is nearly faded away. You say, "Oh, what a pity that so wonderful a picture by Raphael should be nearly defaced!" After a while a man comes up, very unskillful in art, and he proposes to retouch it. You say, "Stand off! I would rather have it just as it is; you will only make it worse." After a while there comes an artist who was the equal of Raphael. He says, "I will retouch that picture and bring out all its original power." You have full confidence in his ability. He touches it here and there. Feature after feature comes forth, and when he is done with the picture it is complete in all its original power.

Now God impresses his image on our race, but that image has been defaced for hundreds and for thousands of years, getting fainter and fainter. Here comes up a divine Raphael—I shall call him a divine Raphael. He says: "I can restore that picture. He has all power in heaven and on earth. He is the equal of the one who made the picture, the equal of the one who drew the image of God in our soul. He touches this sin and it is gone, that trangression and it is gone, and all the defacement disappears. Where sin abounded grace doth much more abound." Will you have the defacement or will you have the restoration? I am well persuaded that if I could by a touch of my fingers, in a few minutes put before you what has been done to save your soul, there would be an emotional tide overwhelming.

"Mamma," said a little child to her mother, when she was being put to bed at night, "mamma, what makes your hand so scarred and twisted, and unlike other people's hands?" "Well," said the mother, "my child, when you were younger than you are now, years ago, one night after I had put you to bed, I heard a cry, a shriek upstairs. I came up and found the bed was on fire, and you were on fire, and I took hold of you and I tore off the burning garments, and while I was tearing them off, and trying to get you away, I burned my hand, and it has been scarred and twisted ever since, and hardly looks any more like a hand; but, I got that, my child, in trying to save you."

O man! O woman! I wish to-day I could show you the burned hand of Christ—burned in plucking you out of the fire, burned in snatching you away from the flame. Ay, also the burned foot, and the burned brow, and the burned heart—burned for you. "By his stripes ye are healed."

WOULD SAVE HIS BOOTS.

After he had sold his load of wood and had received $4.25 for it, he strolled over to the little combination billiard parlor and bar room on the other side of the square, says the New York Press. His faded old eyes lighted up and his new cowhide boots, larded generously in grease, squeaked exultantly as he thought of that drink he had been planning to get ever since he left the farm at daybreak.

"Jest one old snifter
Of that good old liffer,"

he cooed to himself, "and I'll be primed to start for home.

"About one finger of that old red-eye will do the bizness, I kalculate," he confided to

"I AIN'T A DRINKIN' MAN."

the bartender, as he pulled a feverish red mitten from his right hind pocket and jammed it down in his "pants" pocket. "I ain't a drinkin' man—never was—but when it's so cold outside yer breath freezes to t'waggin wheels ye's got ter resort to some powerful remedy t' thaw it out."

The bartender agreed with him. For months he had watched the old farmers come in, order just one finger of whisky, and drink a whole handful of fingers for the manifestly unfair expenditure of 10 cents. He had decided to put a stop to it, and the farmer with the new cowhide boots was the first victim.

The remedy he placed before him was powerful enough to thaw the Yukon. The old man poured his glass full—just as the bar tender knew he would—and gulped it down in one big swallow. The effect was instantaneous. The victim gave one convulsive shudder, looked reproachfully at the bartender and whirled around four times. Then he sat down and hastily began to pull off his cowhide boots.

"What the mischief are you doing that for?" inquired the astonished bartender.

"Can't ye see them's brand new boots!" gasped the victim. "D'ye think I'm goin' t'let them burn up, tew?"

Tiresome Reasoning.

Tatterdon Torne—"Dese fellers may say all dey want ter 'bout design an' plan in nater; I tells yer, nater has made some mighty big blunders."

Ivan Appetite—"How? In not makin' us fellers so we could move from place ter place like a snake, without havin' ter git up?"

Tatterdon Torne—"Naw, but look here: it's arranged so dat no matter whether a man is restin' or not, his heart an' liver an' lungs has got ter keep goin' right 'long wit' her work all de same. But I hate ter think 'bout such things."—Up-to-Date.

A More Interesting Subject.

"I've never heard Mrs. Bibbers talk much about her husband. I wonder why it is?"

"Probably because she has so many interesting things to say about her dog."—Cleveland Leader.

Shifting Responsibility.

Friend—How do you get along with the cooking?

The Bride—Admirably! I blame it on the range.—Puck.

After coughs and colds the germs of consumption often gain a foothold.

Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites will not cure every case; but, if taken in time, it will cure many.

Even when the disease is farther advanced, some remarkable cures are effected. In the most advanced stages it prolongs life, and makes the days far more comfortable. Everyone suffering from consumption needs this food tonic.

50c. and $1.00, all druggists.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

FREE TO OUR READERS.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the great discovery Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root has been so universally successful in quickly curing all forms of kidney and bladder troubles, that those who wish to Prove for themselves its wonderful merit may have a sample bottle and a book of valuable information both sent absolutely free by mail. Nothing could be more fair or generous than this liberal offer, and we advise our readers to write mentioning The Toledo Blade, and send their address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Swamp-Root is the discovery of a great physician and scientist, and as such is not recommended for everything, but will be found by men and women just what is needed in cases of kidney and bladder disorders—or troubles arising from weak kidneys, such as gravel, rheumatism, pain or dull ache in the back, too frequent desire to pass water, scanty supply, smarting or burning in passing it. Swamp-Root stands the highest for its wonderful cures. The regular sizes are sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar.

DAINTY DRESSING SACK.

Polka-Dotted French Flannel and Velvet, With Lace and Ribbon.

The dressing sack is pre-eminently the garment of comfort and ease, having soft, flowing lines, whether simple or elaborate, for dressing-sacks are often made highly ornate by fancy accessories, such as large collars, bretelles, shoulder frills, etc. The daintiest sacks are made of soft fine flannels in delicate colors bearing simple figures, stripes or dots, and they may be made a delight to the eye if trimmed with a lavish hand with lace frills or ruches, ribbon rosettes and the like. The wrapper flannels, which are also used for sacks, are unusually lovely this year, the ground colors being soft neutral shades and the figures enlivening them often combining several hues. In the sketch is shown a simple and dainty sack which appeared in a late number of The Delineator. The material is soft, fine flannel in a neutral blue shade polka-dotted in a darker tone, and a dressy touch is given by a sailor collar of dark-blue velvet that is square

at the back and rounding in front. A fall of cream Mechlin lace from the collar and full ribbon bow at the throat, together with wrist frills below a twist of ribbon, give a pretty finish to the sack, which conforms trimly to the figure at the sides, although loose, and flowing in front.

NO EXPLANATION NEEDED

"I'm not saying whether the spirits of the departed reappear in the flesh," declared the venerable visitor, to a Detroit Free Press man, "but I will vouch for this chapter from my experience.

"My father was an independent thinker and a spiritualist. As a boy I was just as unhampered in my reading as he, and laughed at the idea of any one returning from beyond the grave. After trying long and hard to convert me to his views, he lost his temper and said that at some time I would have an awakening such as I could never forget. One night I returned home late from a hard-cider party and slipped my boots off at the door so as to reach my room as quietly as possible. Once there I was startled by the presence of a white figure that seemed eight feet tall. In a sepulchral voice and slow tone I was arraigned for skepticism, charged with unfilial obstinacy and threatened with condign punishment if I did not heed the teachings of my father.

"Natural boldness being stimulated by hard

"IT SEEMED TO BE EIGHT FEET TALL."

cider, I rallied, called the ghost an old fool and a burglar, told it that I wanted to go to bed and served notice that it must vanish or I would begin breaking chairs over it. Suddenly there was a mix-up. I seemed enveloped in a suffocating cloud of white. I kicked, bit, struck and swore, while I seemed to be tossing about in the arms of a windmill. Then there was a rush, an execration, and all was still. I said nothing of the affair for fear it would furnish my father with more arguments. He did not leave the room for several days. Then there was a patch over his eye and his nose was peeled. I have no explanations, but the story is a true one."

Use Brown's Bronchial Troches for Coughs, Colds, and all other Throat Troubles. "Pre-eminently the best"—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

SPRAY FROM WISDOM'S FOUNT.

The Atchison Globe Man Dips His Pen in Truth's White Ink.

A man who duns himself is very apt to finally pay.

A little-tattle among children becomes a gossip when grown.

A man who amounts to a great deal is seldom very good-natured.

If there is anything that a red-haired girl hates it is a red-haired man.

Don't let any one make you believe that any man is not like other men.

A man doesn't care anything about going to a party; all he wants is to be invited.

We do not like it very well when a traveling photographer calls us a "studio."

An Atchison young man who has a very precious steady, calls her his Klondike.

It is as necessary for a dry goods clerk to know the latest styles for dresses as it is for a grocer to know how to cook.

You know how many loafers there are? Well, every man thinks he is very industrious.

People have been raising hell so long that by this time hell must be up somewhere near heaven.

It is probable that at some time in every man's life he has had an ambition to become an orator.

Old church people say that as soon as a gambler becomes converted he declares his belief in sanctification.

An editor in a country town handles his subscribers with the same delicacy that a preacher does his congregation.

It is a toss up which is worse; a man who is "devoted" to his lodge or a woman who is "devoted" to her church.

The nearest thing to an angel is a girl 8 or 9 years old; next to that an old maid of 25 or 26, who has never had a love affair.

Force of Habit Resistless.

Bacon—Bill is the most absent-minded man I ever knew.

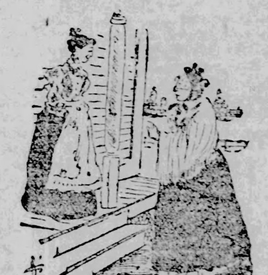
Egbert—What's he been doing now?

Bacon—Why, he got into an elevated train the other day and there wasn't a soul in the car, but he stood up and took hold of the strap, just the same.—Yonkers Statesman.

For Silence Was Golden.

The philosopher said he wanted to talk about marriage, says the Washington "Star," and then he talked after this fashion, although with the philosopher quotations are not allowable:

This is all about marriage, and I have not been married in the past few weeks, either. I have been married so long that my wife never thinks of calling me mister even before my sixth cousin. She calls me mister when talking to the milkman, and I suppose that is honor enough. One of my main reasons for getting married was to have some one to elevate me to the altitude of mister, and, lo and behold, I was unable to breathe the rarified



"COME RIGHT IN, AUNT DEB."

air for more than six months, when I dropped back into the valley of Jims and Jacks.

Speaking of this matter, I once knew an old lady up north who made herself awfully unpopular with a young couple just on this line. Sam Green had only been married a short time when Aunt Debbie called on the bride, whom, as well as the groom, she had known since their teething stage.

"Come right in, Aunt Deb," said the young wife, when the old lady appeared at the gate. "Come right in and sit down. Mr. Green has just run down to the postoffice, but——"

"Mister who?" said Aunt Debbie.

"Mr. Green—Sam—my husband," with a blush.

"Land sakes alive," ejaculated Aunt Debbie, "has that good-for-nothing, shiftless, sawed-off Sam Green actually got some one to call him mister?"

All this, however, is straying from the point I started to reach, which, now I come to think about it, wasn't marriage either. I started out to relate a little incident connected with marriage, which may serve as an example to other husbands.

In Cairo, Egypt, not many years since, the American consul general was a young man from Kansas, without any acquaintance whatever with khedives and potentates, but with a fair knowledge of kings and queens and spades and an intimate knowledge of fun, which he found among the aristocratic denizens of Shepheard's or in the picturesque Arab quarter. Up to the time of his arrival in Cairo our consul general's idea of dress for the male portion of humanity had been confined to long frock coats or dress coats, with turn-down collars and black string ties. The presence, therefore, on constant guard in front of the consulate of two dark-skinned Arabs in flowing white and gold robes and curved and sparkling scimeters, was a matter of constant awe and admiration to him.

These two individuals served the United States at a joint salary amounting to almost $15 per month, but they were beautiful in grave faces, spotless turbans, picturesque robes and gaudy weapons. In themselves they were well worth the price of admission, but one of them, and he the graver and more graceful of the pair, had a wife. Like so many wives, this wife refused to be awed by the imposing get-up. She utterly disclaimed any intention of calling her liege lord master, and on frequent occasions would drop around and hold animated conversations with him on the street in front of the consulate, during which affairs she would express her opinions of him and his sex in earnest Arabic. This sort of thing was too much for even the easy-going nature of the gentleman from Kansas, and one day, after a more than usually exciting family affair on the sidewalk, he called the dignified husband to his presence.

"Soluman, who is that woman?"

"She is my wife, oh, guardian of the stars."

"Well, I am a man of few words and liberal ideas. I am from Kansas and have associated with Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Lease. I don't expect the impossible, and therefore I don't expect you to keep your wife from talking, but understand dhar you have got to stop her from doing her talking around this consulate and that's straight, see."

"Oh, child of the sun and brother of the moon, it shall be as you say," and Suloman departed with a profound salaam.

After that the peace and quiet around the house could be cut with a knife. The hot sun glistened on the turbans of the sentinels, the little donkeys went scurrying by, now and then a long, ungainly camel passed with noiseless footsteps, but no woman, wife or maid broke the calm of the square. Several days later the consul general, entranced at the peace after the storm, felt called upon to compliment Suloman, upon his success.

"You have done nobly, my boy, and I

"SHE IS MY WIFE, OH, GUARDIAN OF THE STARS."

intend to raise your salary $.11 per month, if the government will stand it."

"It is nothing, most high; she will come no more."

"It is felt real sure of that I would make it $.13."

"It is certain, oh, glory of the world and ruler of the winds; I have divorced her."

"What! Great heavens man, I didn't mean anything of that kind."

"Calm yourself, lord of the west, it is nothing. You are my master. Your word is law. You pay well and I do not heed the teachings of my father.

"Soluman, who is that woman?"

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"Well, I am a man of few words and liberal ideas. I am from Kansas and have associated with Susan B. Anthony and Mrs. Lease. I don't expect the impossible, and therefore I don't expect you to keep your wife from talking, but understand dhar you have got to stop her from doing her talking around this consulate and that's straight, see."

"Oh, child of the sun and brother of the moon, it shall be as you say," and Suloman departed with a profound salaam.

After that the peace and quiet around the house could be cut with a knife. The hot sun glistened on the turbans of the sentinels, the little donkeys went scurrying by, now and then a long, ungainly camel passed with noiseless footsteps, but no woman, wife or maid broke the calm of the square. Several days later the consul general, entranced at the peace after the storm, felt called upon to compliment Suloman, upon his success.

"You have done nobly, my boy, and I

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RED.

The Sunday School.

LESSON 12, DECEMBER 19, 1897.

John's Message About Sin and Salvation.

Golden Text: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.—1 John 1:9.

(1 John 1:5 to 2:6. Memory verses 8-10.)

5. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sins.

8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Illustrative Applications.

That God is light (v. 5). Three great affirmations concerning God John makes: God is spirit (John 4:24), God is love (1 John 4:8), and here, God is light. Each affirmation furnishes us with informing conception of God. Follow out this disclosure that God is light. It is the seizure of the most ethereal thing we know, and, by figure, ascribing it to God. Therefore God is living, since light is the nourisher of life; therefore God is intelligent, since light is that by which we perceive; therefore God is beauty, since light is that which hangs the world with color; therefore God is happiness, since light is that in which the world rejoices; therefore God is truth, since light is that which shows us things as they really are; therefore God is holy, since light is purity; therefore God is in contact with us, since light comes to us and wraps us round. Using light as a lens, we get various and ennobling conceptions of God.

And in him is no darkness at all. Here is affirmation by negation. There is not in God the slightest shade of the limitation, imperfection, sin, which darkness images.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth (v. 6). That word "walk" means, literally, to walk around, to carry on the life. It is the general word for living. What we may carry on our lives well and worthily, we need direction, answer to questions, rule and law. To profess fellowship with God, and to stumble and hesitate in our living as men do in the dark, is to be untrue to our profession; for God, who is light, is direction, answer, rule, law. The red-eyed vireo is a little song-bird which hangs its pocket of a nest in the crotches of the branches of low trees. It twists into the fabric of its nest shreds of newspaper. One examining such a nest found braided into it bit of newspaper on which was printed this sentence: "Have an eye to the will of God." If we really do that, we can not walk about in darkness; for God, who is light, streams forth his will in nature, in conscience, in Scripture, in Jesus Christ, in providence by the suggestions of the Holy Spirit. If we sincerely have an eye to the will of God, we shall not go stumbling on as men do, in the dark.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another (v. 7). There is no such quick, strong, beautiful fellowship as that which springs up among those who are sincerely trying to have an eye to the will of God. This sweet, spiritual kinship bridges chasms of all sorts, of race, nationality, position, culture, wealth. I used to know a little and frequently listen to Jerry McAuley in his mission work among the slums of New York. He was wonderful—the fellowship he got to have with all sorts of people, the lowliest and the loftiest. The reason was, he was so evidently walking in the light of God, and everybody who was himself at all trying to, could not help hailing him as brother.

And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin. Mark the present tense of that word "cleanseth." This cleansing is a process continually going on. And that adjective "all" is all in the sense of "every." We sin—the best of us. The more really we live in the light of God, the more conscious we become of sinning. It is the dim room where the dust is not seen. But the blood of Christ is cleansing refuge for every sin. There is in Christ perpetual and abounding forgiveness for us. Do you have the comfort of the unwearyingly forgiving Christ?

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (v. 8). For we have not really brought ourselves into the light of God. In the semi-darkness of your clothes-closet you are searching for a garment which you think you will wear to-day. You find it, and in the dim light, look at it. Yes, and you say, it is fit to wear. But when you take the garment out into the full light, you find it sadly spotted and riddled with moth holes. The full light has shown you that the garment is unfit to wear. The reason why some people dare to imagine themselves perfect is because they are staying in the poor obscurity of their own notion of themselves. But their own notion of themselves is not the true standard. Paul says (1 Cor. iv:3-4), "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself; that is, I have no consciousness of special, distinct, actual sinning. I try my utmost to do the right; yet am I not hereby justified (I have no right to say because, just now, I know of no special sin upon my conscience, I am therefore sinlessly perfect; but he that judgeth me is the Lord." The Lord God, who is light, is the standard.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v. 9). Mark that plural—sins. It is quite easy for us to confess sin in a general way. But to be thoroughly honest with ourselves, and to confess our sins, that particular pride, envy, meanness, fretfulness, harsh word, wrong feeling, bad act—that is another matter. But only thus do we make our confession real, and s. our cry for forgiveness genuine. And over against such real penitence there is the faithful God—the God true to his promises, and the just God—the God who through the atonement, can be both just and the justifier. And he will do toward our sins two wonderful things—he will forgive us them, save us from sin's punishment, and deliver us from sin's pollution. God both justifies and sanctifies. Sins, then, need not condemn us, but the refusal to penitently ask forgiveness of sins through Christ must.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (v. 10). Suppose a man were terribly in debt, and that his friends should make complete provision for his debts, and that the debtor should still stoutly affirm he owed nothing. It is plain enough he would thus declare all his friends' love and sacrifice for him useless and false. Precisely such declaration men do really make when God having provided atonement for sin at such abyssmal sacrifice, men will not accept it. They essentially say God has false view of our need and danger. Such sacrifice was needless. They charge falseness against God. That is a fearful thing to do.

That ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (v. 1). A cabman signed the pledge for a friend who sought to save him. But, soon after, drink was too much for him, and he broke it. Conscience-stricken and ashamed, he tried to keep out of his friend's way. But one day his friend found the despairing man, and, lovingly taking his hand, said to him, when the road is slippery, and your cab horse falls down, what do you do with him?" "I help him up again," replied John. "Well," answered the friend, "I have come to do the same. The road was slippery, I know, John, and you fell; but there's my hand to help you up again." And John was thus helped up, and this time stayed up. That friend was John's advocate in the precise meaning of this Scripture—one called to one's side. Our Lord Jesus is this to us often failing and falling. We may not sin—it must be our perpetual purpose that we do not. But, if we do, we need not despair. Jesus

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1897.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 152,000

PREMIUMS FOR NOVEMBER.

Last week we sent by express, prepaid, a fine oil painting to M. B. Fitch, Decorah, Iowa, as promised for the largest club of yearly subscribers sent us during the month of November. Mr. Fitch sent us a club of 159 names.

There was not much of a contest, as not more than a dozen sent in clubs which would indicate an expectation of the premium, and except for Mr. Fitch the premium would have been awarded for a modest-sized club.

We mention these facts, as many make no effort because they think hundreds are working for the premium. The same proposition has been offered to all those whose time expires in December, and it is more than likely a small club will win. We hope there will be more large clubs this month. Any who have not received the proposition will please write for a duplicate.

What we want more than anything else is the acceptance of our renewal proposition, whether you compete for premium or not. The offer for your renewal is too liberal to decline.

THE BLADE CHINA SETS.

Under the new offer, The Blade china sets are having a remarkable sale, and are giving the highest satisfaction. Those who have obtained them are delighted with their fine quality and their beauty. They are the best quality we have ever offered, and the price is lower than ever before, and lower than such goods can be purchased for in any other way. Don't hesitate to send in your orders, for you will be delighted with the goods. Read the advertisement elsewhere in this paper.

OUR NEW WATCH OFFER.

Our readers will find a new watch list given in the Publishers' Column, on the fifth page of this paper. The list embraces both cheap grades and standard watches, and, though it is not long, gives sufficient variety to suit all. Order by name; not by number. Read the offer throughout, and you will know exactly what the watches are.

ONE-MAN POWER.

A Washington correspondent says a plan is now under discussion among the extreme free-silver-or-bust members of the Democratic national committee, to make a new departure for 1900 in the nomination of a candidate and the adoption of a platform. The scheme, as he describes it, is this:

Democratic state conventions will be held as usual in 1900 for the purpose of electing delegates to the national convention and doing the usual part toward keeping up the machinery of the party. The conventions will order the delegates to meet at once and instruct the national committee to readopt the Chicago platform in its entirety and without changing it in the minutest particular. The delegates will further be instructed to direct the national committee to cast the votes of the state delegations for Mr. Bryan and to authorize that gentleman to name his own running mate.

Many things will happen within the next three years, but it is safe to say that this scheme will not be numbered among them. For ourselves, we heartily with the Democracy would commit itself to self-destruction in that way. Bossism is hated by the masses of the American people, and this plan would be bossism run mad. It would mean such an overwhelming defeat at the polls that Bryan and the Chicago platform would never emerge from under the avalanche of national disapprobation.

ELECTIONS OF 1898.

Politically the year 1898 comes midway between Presidential campaigns and is the time for the election of the Representatives to the second Congress of the Presidential term. It is thus the opening engagement for the battle of 1900.

All the states will choose Representatives in Congress, and about one-third of them will choose legislatures which will elect United States Senators for the senatorial terms beginning on March 4, 1900. The following states will also elect governors:

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Every state will thus have an election of some kind on its hands, and as the contests involve the political dominance of the House of Representatives for the two closing years of President McKinley's term, they will be fought on national lines, and fall but little short of a Presidential campaign in interest and importance.

MINISTER ANGELL'S DEMAND.

United States Minister Angell has renewed his demand for indemnity from the Turkish government for the pillage of American missions in Armenia.

Making demands on Turkey never accomplishes anything. If the United States really desires to obtain reparation and indemnity, stronger measures will have to be taken.

A half-dozen of the best warships of the new navy should be sent to Constantinople, with orders to shell the city if the Sublime Porte does not act speedily. Austria pursued the same course on far less provocation, and obtained what she demanded.

Tom Reed is the great national lung tester. Ask talkative Congressmen if this is not so.

M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE.

President McKinley, in his first annual message to Congress, abandons the routine generally followed by the chief executive, and devotes the document almost entirely to the currency and to our foreign relations.

Upon the money question, he leaves himself freedom of action by presenting to Congress, in the strongest possible light, the defects of our monetary system, for which he urges that body to provide an adequate remedy. The specific recommendations which he makes are:

First, that the law shall be so modified that when gold is drawn from the Treasury by the presentation of greenbacks for redemption, the latter shall not be paid out again, but shall be held in the Treasury unless gold is paid in exchange for them, thus breaking the endless chain.

Second, that national banks shall be allowed to issue notes to the full par value of the bonds deposited to secure circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes be reduced to one-half of one per cent per year.

Third, that the extension of national banks to small towns be favored by allowing them to organize on a minimum capital of $25,000, thus giving adequate banking facilities to the agricultural sections.

Fourth, that no national bank notes be allowed of lower denomination than $10. This is apparently to favor a more extended use of silver dollars; but it would seem that the actual result would be to cause the greenbacks and silver certificates to be issued in the lower denominations, instead of the higher. The people unmistakably show their preference for paper on account of its convenience. The other recommendations are excellent, and we shall discuss them at length in the future.

In his brief remarks on international bimetallism, the President informs the country that the Wolcott commission has not yet made its final report, as there are negotiations still going on. This much is certainly news to the people of the United States, as the impression has gone abroad that the rejection of the proposals by England ended the matter, so far as the present commission is concerned.

The portion of the message devoted to our foreign relations discusses Cuba, Hawaii and reciprocity. By far the greater space is given to Cuban affairs, showing that the President is anxious to make his reasons for the course he recommends, thoroughly clear to the people. He is well aware that they ardently sympathize with the Cubans in their struggle for independence, and that very many hoped he would take an aggressive position in their favor in this message.

He makes it clear that we are not at present justified in recognizing the Cubans as belligerents, and that it would be unwise to do so—fortifying his position by quotations from President Grant's message to Congress in 1875, when the conditions were practically the same as now. He intimates, in closing the topic, that the time may come when we will be justified in interfering by force; and every intelligent American citizen will agree with him that it must be "because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world."

President McKinley is heartily in favor of Hawaiian annexation, and makes an eloquent plea for the ratification of the pending treaty by the Senate and the prompt elaboration of a scheme for the government of the island. He does not deem the mixed population of native Hawaiians and Orientals proper material to be vested with full citizenship in a state, but leaves to Congress, where it rightfully belongs, the task of formulating a governmental scheme which will protect their rights and give the islands a satisfactory form of government.

Speaking of reciprocity, the President says that negotiations for the carrying into effect of those provisions of the Dingley tariff law are in progress with several countries, both American and European. In this connection, he urges Congress to aid, by proper legislation, in the promotion of our carrying trade and the upbuilding of our merchant marine.

The message is certainly one of the most important that Congress has received for a decade, and furnishes that body with ample topics for discussion and subjects for action. Perhaps the one subject upon which it is called to act which will give rise to the most debate, and which will develop the bitterest contest, is the greenback project. The free silver contingent will oppose it bitterly, and in the present anomalous status in the Senate it is a question whether affirmative action is possible.

A MILD WINTER.

The sun-spot editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (why not say Chronicle, and let it go at that?) has attained national celebrity by his somewhat oracular utterances concerning sun-spots and the correlation between them and meteorological conditions on the earth. He now comes to the front with a dissertation from which we gather that a mild winter is to be expected. He says:

What has been termed the heated hemisphere of the sun, for lack of a better descriptive phrase, is apparently producing the meteorological change expected. The turning of this hemisphere toward the earth has been followed for months by exceptionally warm weather.

Ordinarily, high barometer is associated with clear, cold weather. But it appears that when the heated hemisphere of the sun turns toward us, high barometer indicates a swift retreat of cold and the coming of warm weather. Some days ago it was suggested that if the sun's condition had not changed, the turning of the heated hemisphere toward the earth would render late November and early December mild.

In using the term heated hemisphere there is no intention to indicate the nature of sun heat. All that can be said is that the presentation of that hemisphere sets up conditions whether through magnetic or other agency, which are marked by that we call heat.

Last January very high barometer was noted and the phenomenon was repeated at quite regular intervals for several months, and it will be interesting to watch for a possible repetition of the conditions. The high of Sunday was the second noted this autumn, and there may be a repetition at intervals, as during last winter.

We confess that we have not a clear understanding of the phrase, "heated hemisphere of the sun;" but infer that one-half the sun produces certain effects which are not noticed when the other hemisphere is turned toward us. It rotates on its axis in 25 or 27 days, the equator appearing to rotate faster than the higher latitudes; consequently the "heated hemisphere" is turned towards us in a greater or less degree for half the time, and we should feel its effects every two weeks or less.

The effort to consolidate the various silver smelters and refineries has been abandoned. The task was too big, and the prospect of boosting the price of the white metal entirely too faint.

Bob Ingersoll preached a Thanksgiving sermon and took up a collection, but the collection was attended to at the box office.

WAGES RISING VOLUNTARILY.

Wages are the price of labor. Labor is a commodity, and like all others, its price depends primarily upon demand as related to supply. The revival of industry, consequent upon the victory for honest money at the polls last fall, and the restoration of the conditions which provide a sound basis for our industries by the enactment of the Dingley tariff law, is now bringing its logical result—an increase of wages, without strikes or the employment of brute force in any other form.

Recovery from a wasting illness is always a matter of time. Disease will strike down a strong man, and in a few days reduce him to a condition of bodily weakness from which it will take him weeks, and even months, to recover. So the deadly blow dealt to American industries, and as a matter of course to American workingmen, by the Wilson law, led to depression, idleness and general business disaster, from which the country has been slowly emerging for several months past.

The process of recovery has gone on until wages are sensibly affected. "Wages are the first to fall and the last to rise" is an axiom whose truth has been proved many times in the industrial history of every nation. It is glad tidings to the millions of workers in the United States that we have reached the point in our recovery from the hard times that there is a general movement of wages upward. The regular weekly report of the mercantile agencies, supplemented by dispatches from various parts of the country, show conclusively that we have reached the normal condition of industrial activity, such as we had in 1890, at the time of the enactment of the McKinley tariff, and that in some lines we are going even beyond that, in obedience to the law of supply and demand.

The Chicago Times-Herald, which is keeping close watch upon the business situation, gives the following list of great industrial plants and other large employers of labor who have, within the past week, voluntarily increased the wages of their men:

During the week the 2,000 employes of the steel works of Jones & Laughlin, of Pittsburg, received a 10 per cent advance in wages; 1,000 operatives in the works of the Mahoning Iron and Steel company, at Youngstown and New Castle, received a 10 per cent advance; the largest pay in five years was distributed in the Moorehead & Co.'s mills at Sharpsburg, Pa., the puddlers receiving as high as $8.28 per day; a voluntary advance of from 10 to 20 per cent was made in the wages of the employes of the Bessemer Limestone company, Carbon Limestone company, Johnson & Co., and John R. Grist, at Youngstown, the largest limestone concerns in Ohio; the 10 per cent advance in the wages of the 2,200 employes of the five big iron and ore mining companies in the Iron mountain district of Michigan went into effect Tuesday; a voluntary advance of 20 per cent was made in the wages of the worsted workers in the mills of Providence, restoring the high rates of 1893.

This list does not include many smaller concerns, nor the cases of individual employers. It records only those in which the number of men employed is large. In the face of such facts, it is not possible for that prophet of evil, Mr. Bryan, nor for his fellow-hierophants of disaster, to declare that there is no prosperity, and that conditions have not improved. The farmers and the workingmen in the nation's industries are reaping the fruits of the era of good times, and that in the largest degree.

THE BOHEMIAN RIOTS.

The unprecedented scenes in the unterhans of the Austrian reichsrath showed the intense bitterness of the race feeling which was stirred up by the attempt to make Czech instead of German the official language of Bohemia and Moravia. The disorder in that body was begun by the Germans, headed by Dr. Wolff, the German Nationalist leader. The excitement was shared by the people of Vienna, and the danger of mob violence became so great as to compel the resignation of Premier Baderi and his ministry.

Next came the outbreak in Prague. The Bohemians took their innings, and a mob composed of people of that nationality attacked the houses and establishments of German and Jewish citizens. This Prague mob acted as if it were under systematic and intelligent direction, rather than being a mere irresponsible outbreak of fanatical Bohemians, acting under race jealousy.

The opinion is expressed in many quarters that there is a faction at work which is endeavoring to break up the present empire of Austria-Hungary, and perhaps to work for Bohemian independence. That may be; but it does not follow that such a thing would be easy of accomplishment, nor that the effort can be successful.

The empire is made up of a congeries of different nationalities, differing in language, traditions and to some extent in religion. There is no national coherence, save that which comes from their individual weakness. Sensible men of any of these differing nationalities see that it is, in the long run, better to be part of a great empire than a weak and feeble independent state, liable to aggressions from stronger ones. But it is easy, with these racial differences, to set up factional jealousies, which in the present case bid fair to bring the empire to a state of political chaos.

JUSTICE FIELD RETIRES.

On December 1, Justice Field retired from the United States supreme court bench to which position he was appointed by President Lincoln. His term of service has extended over 34 years and seven months, longer than any judge has ever sat upon the supreme bench. Justice Field was eligible to retirement eleven years ago but having a vigorous constitution he preferred to remain in active public life and now voluntarily lays aside the ermine of office at the age of 81 years.

Under the law Mr. Field will receive the full salary of associate justice for the remainder of his life, $10,000 a year. He has earned the brief rest which now comes to him in the evening of life and his thousands of admirers all over the country wish him that peace and quiet to which his long years of public service entitle him.

If Wilhelm's land-grab at Kaio Chau is successful, we may expect to see German missionaries sent to other tempting spots, on the chance that the natives will kill them also, and give him an opportunity to take possession.

Four years ago Colorado produced $8,000,000 in gold annually. Its product this year will be $22,000,000. Colorado will, at this rate, be solid for the gold standard by 1900.

Speaker Reed says he sees no reason why the coming session of Congress should be a protracted one. The country shares in this view.

RUSSIA ADOPTS GOLD.

Russia has now established her financial system on the gold standard. She has been steadily working toward it for two years past, and the imperial ukase of November 30 records its accomplishment. She has now a gold reserve equal to about 65 per cent of the whole volume of her paper money, and there is therefore no difficulty in keeping the latter at par with gold. Paper money never depreciates in current value so long as it is redeemed in gold on demand, and it always depreciates unless it is so redeemed.

The gold imperial, which weighs 12.902 grammes, 900 fine, is the unit of Russian money. The value of the imperial, in our currency, is $11.58. The ukase of November 30 orders the coinage of five-ruble gold pieces, each in value one-third of the imperial. It also declares that all "credit notes"—paper money—will be redeemed in gold to any amount, and guarantees this by "the whole property of the state."

Russia having taken this step, not one first-class nation in the world remains on the silver basis. Mexico is the principal silver country now. Russian statesmen long ago saw that the civilized and enlightened countries of the world were abandoning the primitive conditions of finance which had been maintained so long, and placing their finances on the most stable basis possible. They saw that Russia's credit could never be first-class so long as the money of the empire was based on silver, fluctuating in value, and on paper redeemable in silver. Commercial men found that so long as the silver standard was maintained, interest rates would be higher than if the standard were stable in value. The adoption of the gold standard was the remedy needed, and that has been accomplished without trouble. Russia has an abundance of gold, and the world's financial centers have not been drained of that metal.

All of these things add to the improbability of the United States taking such a backward step as returning to a money metal which all other great nations have abandoned because of its inefficiency and irregularity. Bryanism will never be the financial gospel of Uncle Sam.

THE HAYTIAN TROUBLE.

Lueders, a half-breed Haytian, was fined and punished by the authorities at Port au Prince, for resisting an officer. Lueders claimed German citizenship through his father, and Germany has demanded that the Haytian government shall pay an indemnity of $23,000 for the 23 days he was kept in jail before his release was demanded, and $30,000 for the six days thereafter before the President of Hayti ordered his relese—a total of $53,000. Hayti demurred at the excessive amount, whereupon the German minister hauled down the flag over the embassy, and force is threatened if the amount is not paid forthwith.

This incident is probably to be set down as another evidence of the German Emperor's itch for notoriety. Had such a case occurred in an American city, or in an English or Austrian or Russian one, no such absurd demand would have been made. Hayti is a little negro republic, too weak to dream of coping with Germany. The island is a rich one in soil and products, and would make an admirable naval station for Germany. The Emperor's heart is fixed on increasing his navy, as an aid to the policy of "colonization"—which is but another name for land-grabbing from weaker nations, barbarous or semi-civilized.

The United States can not allow Haytian territory to be seized by Germany, or any other European nation. That is, we can not allow it unless we are willing to abandon the Monroe doctrine as a line of national policy. Ambassador White has been instructed to inquire exactly what Germany's intentions are, and it is not believed the incident will lead to international complications. We will not interfere, it is probable, unless Germany attempts to seize Haytian territory. Meanwhile we can only wait until Emperor Wilhelm sees fit to make known his intentions.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

The vexed school question up in Manitoba is not settled. The Dominion government supposed that it was, but the Pope has put his finger in the pie, and the row is on again. He disapproves of the abolition of the Roman Catholic schools, and, while advising the Roman Catholics to remain in a pacific attitude towards the Manitoba government, directs them to yield no part of their constitutional privileges.

As another election in that province is near, it is probable that the message from the Vatican was so timed as to have the most influence upon the Roman Catholic voters of the province. The Pope is an intelligent man, acquainted with the uses of party influence in public questions, and trained in the practice of statesmanship on behalf of the Roman Catholic church, and he has delayed his pronouncement until this time in the hope of securing separate schools from the Conservatives if they obtain control of the Manitoba assembly. But he cannot have forgotten that the Dominion cabinet which preceded Premier Laurier's accession refused them. Should the provincial politicians at Winnipeg concede the demand, it is certain that the whole of the rest of the Conservative party would not support them.

ONLY TWO HAVE OBEYED.

In 1893 a law was passed by Congress requiring the railroads of the country to equip all their trains, freight and passenger, with automatic coupling devices. Five years were given in which to make the change, that period expiring in January next.

The penalty fixed by the law is a fine of $100 for every train run without the proper equipment.

But two railroads have complied fully with the law—the Burlington and the New York Central. The others have equipped part of their cars, but no other road has its rolling stock fully prepared to obey the letter of the statute.

Washington is filled with railway attorneys, who will appear before the interstate railroad commission to-morrow in response to a summons to show cause why they have not complied with the law. A concerted effort will be made to have the time extended.

It would seem that five years is ample time in which to equip the rolling stock of any and every railroad in the United States.

The Kansas Populists have machine politics down to so fine a point as to make party bosses in the East blush for shame. They have openly assessed every Populist officeholder 2 per cent of his salary, dating back to last July.

Indications point to a great deal of speech-making at the coming session of Congress.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

Congress and Business.

The business interests of the United States have shown a remarkable improvement in the last twelve months. When Congress met a year ago trade and commerce were almost at a standstill. There had been a revival following the election which has not yet ceased. The deposits in banks had not been fully recovered after the free silver specter had caused the timid ones to withdraw their savings from bank vaults, to be hoarded away from possible disaster. A comparatively small number of factories were running with their full complement of workmen. Merchants were still in the slough of despond. To-day banks have big reserves, notwithstanding the large sums which are loaned in European money markets. Factories are being taxed to their capacity and the retail trade has increased to a point that gives a big increase to the jobbing trade. The record of clearings gives an evidence of the increase in general business which is even more marked in the middle west than in the east.

Speculative Markets.

In the speculative markets there is continued dullness, though the undertone is strong and traders report an accession of buying orders for investment. While there are fluctuations from day to day, each week sees a gradual improvement in prices. The best-informed financiers are impressed with the belief that the betterment will continue, with only slight checks from time to time.

Prices of Grain.

The grain market showed instability last week. Cash wheat declined about 5 cents at primary points, while for May delivery it lost about 2 cents. The percentage of loss in the coarse grains has been equal to that in wheat. Provisions had previously ruled so low compared with the price of the hogs from which they are manfactured that there was scarcely room for further reduction, and to that and the fact that their very moderate price is stimulating consumption must be ascribed the fact that they show no further decline in price during the past week.

Why Wheat Declined.

The chief cause of the decline in wheat was the heavy domestic receipts. The shipments to foreign markets have exceeded even the previous heavy exports, but that lost its effect upon the minds of speculators because it was demonstrated by another 1,000,000 bushels having been added last week to the visible supply that are resources are more than adequate for the supply of both the enormous foreign demand and the ordinary domestic consumption. Farmers are being offered unusual inducements to market their wheat, and how far that is at the expense of their future inability to meet a drain, which promises to continue till next harvest at not far from its present magnitude, time only can determine. Meantime the enormous shipments of all kinds of grain and provisions from the United States to foreign countries make the latter pay willing tribute to our prosperity.

Meeting of Congress.

Congres met for its first regular session on Monday. It starts with certain advantages in its favor, for the two houses are already organized, so that no time will be lost in the work usually preliminary to legislation. What will be accomplished at the session, which is the one known as the long session, remains to be seen. The chairman of the ways and means committee, Mr. Dingley, expresses the opinion, in an interview just made public, that little is to be looked for in the way of desirable currency legislation until the Senate is brought into harmony with the House in reference to monetary affairs. At present, he thinks, the free silver majority in the Senate can scarcely be expected to join with the House in endeavoring to constitute a sound currency system. It is thought by Chairman Dingley that a bankruptcy bill may be passed at the session. The subject will be brought up early, and it is likely that two measures will be brought forward, one upon the lines of the Senate bill of last year, which will probably go through the Senate, and another framed upon the idea of the Torrey bill, which is likely to receive the sanction of the House. In this event there will be a conference out of which there may come a compromise measure which may become a law.

Some Legislative Forecasts.

One of the topics which will come up for legislative action is immigration, the need of some further degree of regulation for which is quite generally recognized. So there may be legislation to strengthen the interstate commerce commission, whose powers have been curtailed by some recent decisions of the courts. It is expected that a pooling bill will be again brought forward by the railroads and there is probably a greater chance for securing the assent of Congress to such a measure at present than there was at any time hitherto. Attention will, of course, be called to the needs of Alaska, and doubtless owing to the fact that there is little or no political interest in the territory there is a chance of some legislation being had. Efforts will be made to secure the admission of Arizona and New Mexico to statehood, though here the chances of success by the proponents of such legislation are problematical. Possibly the subject of postal savings banks may be taken up on the suggestion of the postmaster general. It seems clear that if Mr. Dingley and those who think with him can control the situation, the questions of Hawaiian annexation and intervention in Cuba will be left to the executive department of the government for treatment.

Reciprocity With Peru.

According to Washington advices Peru is the first of the South American countries to open negotiations for a reciprocity treaty with the United States. The negotiations were begun on the initiative of the Peruvian minister at Washington, and simultaneously with the opening of the question by him the Peruvian government introduced a measure granting authority to the president of Peru to conclude a reciprocity treaty without the usual formality of having it submitted to the Congress of the country. This action was regarded as very satisfactory to the government at Washington, and since then negotiations have gone on rapidly. A schedule of the articles on which it desires concessions has been submitted by Peru. These articles embrace brandies and wines, hides of cattle and goats, vicuna wool, sugar, woven cotton goods, Peruvian bark, rubber, and many other products which, it is said, have not come into competition with the products of the United States. A schedule is to be prepared by Mr. Kasson of goods which it is desired to export to Peru, and from these two schedules a list will be prepared for insertion in a reciprocity treaty. The negotiation of this treaty will doubtless be followed shortly by others with the more important remaining South American countries.

That Kentucky Lottery.

A lottery grant is not in any sense a contract within the meaning of the constitution of the United States. This doctrine was laid down by the Supreme court of the United States in the case of Douglas against the commonwealth of Kentucky, which involved the validity of the franchise of the Frankfort lottery. The constitution of 1891 revoked all lottery charters theretofore granted and forbade the existence of lotteries in the state. It was contended by the plaintiff in error that the revocation of the lottery charter was in effect the revocation of a contract. The court held otherwise, saying that a lottery grant was simply a gratuity and license which the state under its police powers and for the protection of the public morals might at any time revoke, and hat no right acquired during the life of the grant on the faith thereof, or by agreement with the grantee can be exercised after the revocation of the grant and the prohibition of the lottery if its exercise constitutes a continuance of such lottery.

National Bank Circulation.

National bank circulation outstanding on November 30 amounted, according to the monthly report of the Comptroller of the Currency, to $229,549,707. This represents a decrease of $406,658 for the month and of $5,762,396 for the twelve months ending therewith. The portion of the circulation based on the deposit of bonds amounted to $201,785,572, a decrease of $1,984,920 for the month of November and of $14,668,924 for the year ending therewith. The part of the circulation based upon the deposit of money amounted to $27,814,135, which represents an increase of $1,693,450 for the month and of $9,111,716 for the twelve months ending therewith. It will be seen from the figures given that while the circulation based on the deposit of money is increasing, there is a falling off in that based on the deposit of bonds.

The Wolcott-Commission.

It is good news from Washington that both the gold and the silver men in Congress propose to learn what instructions were given the bimettalic commission by the McKinley administration, and by what authority Senator Wolcott declared to the French ambassador at the conference in London that he and his associates were empowered under certain conditions to accept a proposition for free coinage at the ratio of 15½ to 1. There has been a great deal of mystery about this mission from the start, and both sides are sick of it. It is also encouraging to hear reports of a growing feeling among the politicians who have tried to keep in with both elements that the game cannot be played any longer, and that they must take sides definitely, one way or the other. It will be an immense gain if the issue can be forced to a head in this way at the coming session of Congress.

The Crispi Case.

It will be the fair thing for the world to suspend judgment regarding the frightful charges of vulgar thievery that have been made against the Italian statesman, Signor Francesco Crispi. The charge is that during an exceptionally long and influential political career, the Italian premier has used his high office for the purpose of wholesale blackmail and other ways of getting money that did not belong to him. The world is always loath to believe anything evil—that is, ordinary, everyday, vulgar evil—against anybody whose place is assumed to raise him above reproach. The case of Count de Lesseps is one in point. When it became necessary to admit that the count, in his old age, must be condemned as a confidence man, the whole world mourned. The magnificent defence which Crispi makes of himself is, if not a phenomenal bluff, a most pathetic thing. Though many circumstances seem to be against him, it must be remembered he is entitled to the benefit of every doubt until he shall be proved to be guilty.

The Cuban Situation.

The latest engagement reported between the Spanish troops and the insurgents in Cuba is described as a victory for the Spanish forces. It is announced from Spanish sources that the insurgents left over one hundred dead on the field. The insurgents are said, also, to have suffered severely in an engagement in the province of Santa Clara. Offsetting these reverses, which still lack confirmation, there is comfort for the friends of Cuba in the United States in the confirmation of the report of the capture of Guisa by the insurgent troops after they had inflicted great loss upon the Spanish garrison.

Although the reported engagements are more serious than the skirmishes which have figured in the news reports of some time past, there is nothing in them to warrant a belief that the situation in Cuba has changed to any great extent. The offer of autonomy may have satisfied some of the non-combatants in Havana, but the Cubans in the field are reported to be unalterably opposed to any settlement on terms short of absolute independence.

The insurgents are fully aware of the desperate straits in which Spain has been placed by their own persistence and the consequent prolongation of the war. Spain is facing an almost hopeless struggle which she would probably relinquish with relief if it were not for the fact that there is danger at home. The Spanish dynasty is not upon a sure foundation, and the enormous financial and military losses incurred by the war have incensed the people and aroused the dormant hopes of the Carlists and other plotters against the crown. It is feared that the abandonment of Cuba would be followed by a revolution at home that might result in the downfall of the existing dynasty. This would multiply the woes of those who are now at the head of affairs in Spain, and naturally they are afraid to let go in Cuba.

Knowing the situation in Spain, the Cuban leaders will continue their warfare in accordance with the original plan of pegging away wherever they can get in a blow and slowly wearing Spain out of military and financial strength.

Land-Grabbing in Africa.

Recent news from West Africa indicates that the twenty years' scramble between the French and British in the basin of the Niger is approaching a climax. Lord Salisbury's Guildhall speech sounded a warning which, apparently, has been unheeded or openly defied by the French in Africa, making it probable that one or both nations may be willing to risk a European war to preserve their present possessions or retain their respective "spheres of influence" in West Africa.

Most people, perhaps, will be surprised to learn that in this particular quarter of the world, even the pushing, aggressive, colonizing Englishman has been surpassed by his French rival. French advance in the two great spheres of operation of the Niger and the Congo has been a surprise even to the English, who have suddenly been made to realize that their possessions in this promising quarter for colonial enterprise are chiefly confined to enclaves on the coast, while the French have given a compactness to their rapidly extending possessions in the Soudan that foreshadows an empire in Africa for France, as an offset to England's Indian empire. England still controls the Niger from its mouth to Boussa, a distance of 500 miles, but beyond that the great river of West Africa, after a stretch of 500 miles, chiefly rapids, to Ausongo, gives an immense waterway of 1,000 miles of navigable waters through a country now in the effective occupation of France.

The French are in possession of Timbuctoo, on the great northern bend of the river, and to the west have connected it with the Senegal, thus giving direct communication between St. Louis, on the west coast, and the great interior region of the Niger basin. With Algeria as a basis and recent concessions by England as regards Tunis, France seems to be in a fair way to build up a great African empire.

November Weather.

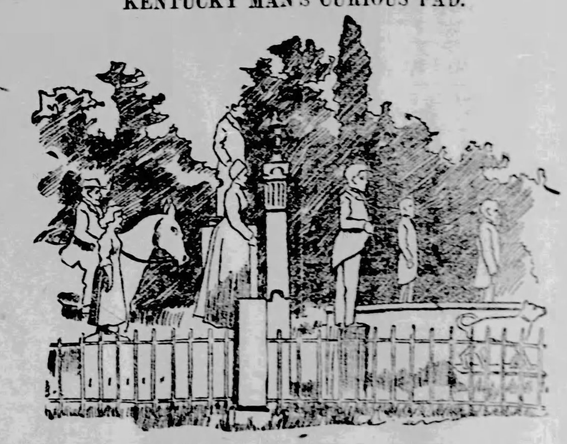
The Climate and Crop Bulletin for November, issued last week by the Weather Bureau, says that "the month averaged colder than usual in central and northern California and from the North Pacific coast eastward over the northern border states to the upper lake region," and "it was slightly colder than usual in northern New England." But, on the other hand, the Bulletin states, "in the lower lake region and throughout the central and southern portions of the country the month averaged warmer than usual," though the average daily excess of temperature was by several strong cold waves, but the average temperature of the month was nevertheless slightly in excess of the normal.

This fact affords a strong presumption that the coming winter will probably be exceptionally severe in the Northwest, the upper lake region and the trans-Mississippi districts. But the present outlook does not preclude the hope that the Atlantic and East Gulf states and parts of the central west may get through the next two months without experiencing excessive and prolonged cold.

Winter Wheat.

It is encouraging to note that during November the sections in which the average temperature was somewhat warmer than usual include most if not all of the area in which our principal winter crops are sown. The official report states that "more than the usual amount of rain fell during the month in the Ohio and central Mississippi valleys, lower lake region, middle Atlantic states, New England and the east coast of southern Florida, over which districts the actual fall generally ranged from 4 to 7 inches." In the first half of autumn these districts had suffered very much from drought, and the farmers were generally late in sowing their winter grain. But as there was a concurrence during November of comparatively mild and moist weather conditions in the area devoted to winter crops, the seed sown had a fair chance to get a favorable start. At present the indications are that the snowfall of the winter will be ample to protect vegetation in all the northern and middle latitudes of the country.

KENTUCKY MAN'S CURIOUS FAD.



"UNCLE HENRY" DOESN'T WAIT FOR DEATH.

Henry G. Woolbridge, better known as "Uncle Henry," lives at Mayfield, Ky. Some years ago he bought a lot in the Mayfield cemetery, in which he placed a family monument. Later he ordered marble statues of himself and wife, and erected them near the shaft. Subsequently he caused an equestrian statue of himself to be added to the collection. Not satisfied with this, he set up marble statues of his two favorite hounds and then statues of his three brothers. "Uncle Henry" has spent thousands of dollars in this way, but he is not satisfied yet and may enlarge his plan to increase the number of his statues. He may vary the style by erecting family groups.

MONKEY WASHES WINDOWS

St. Louis has developed a new occupation for monkeys. The firemen at the engine house at the corner of 11th street and St. Louis avenue have a monkey that escaped from the owner of a hand organ some weeks ago and took refuge in the engine house. He has lived there ever since, and has learned to wash windows. He dips the sponge in the water, wrings it and wipes the glass until it is clean. Then he rubs it dry with a towel. In return for his labors he is rewarded with an extra quantity of potatoes, of which he is fond. He also polishes the brass portion of the harness and engine. All the assistance he requires in washing windows is to have some one move the pail of water for him.

The monkey is tremendously fond of potatoes, and will eat them cooked or raw but prefers them boiled with the skins on. The firemen use his appetite for "spuds" as a means to induce him to work, and he knows that his labors are to be repaid in this way.

ST. LOUIS SIMIAN AT WORK.

A HARDY FALL FLOWER.

There have been so few sharp frosts this season that many of the hardiest of the summer bloomers are blending their bright colors with the chrysanthemums.

The Texas cone flower—rudbeckia—makes a bright glow of color among the hardy shrubbery in the fall, and as these plants are the robust perennials, growing about two feet in height, they are becoming very popular for bedding or shrub beds. They bear very large golden yellow flowers, from three to four inches across, with a velvety maroon center cone.

THE BRIGHT TEXAS CONE FLOWER.

ON THE LAWN.

If you have a coat of arms, why be content to emblazon it merely upon your stationery, your carriage panels and your china? Why not, if you have a gardener also, have flower beds of most symmetrical pattern made into the design that proclaims your gentle breeding? They do it in England. The effect is a little like that of a railway station

AN ENGLISH FAD.

where the master has a mind for ornamental gardening. Bright-colored, short-stemmed blossoms and leaves are used.

At Middlesbrough, England, the town park has the coat of arms of the family which gives it its name carefully wrought out in flowers.

BABY OSTRICHES.

The baby ostriches are little, fluffy brown birds about the size of well grown pullets. They soon lose their infantile attractiveness, however, as in three months they have grown to be tall, ugly and quarrelsome. For two days after it is hatched the ostrich chick can't be tempted to eat anything, then he suddenly develops an appetite for gravel. His infant palate relishes nothing but little stones the size of marrowfat peas and bits of ground bone, and it is a week or two before he will pick at the alfalfa or clover blossoms that are spread around him. An ostrich's span in life that of mankind—threescore and ten.

ON A CALIFORNIA OSTRICH FARM.

CURRENT EVENTS.

In the possession of a Ranger bowler is a string of beads worn by Mary Woodward, who came to this country in the Mayflower in 1620.

All the members of the British royal family have a great fancy for designing jewelry, and as a rule, design all the presents they give to each other.

Horace W. Davis, president of the fish commission of Michigan, claims to have solved the problem of successfully propagating black bass by artificial means.

When the late Alexander Dumas was asked if he ever gave anything to the poor, he replied: "Oh, yes; when I come across a big piece of money I always give it to a blind man."

The Comte d'Eu and Prince Pierre d'Orleans, accompanied by the Comte de Paris's secretary, has started on a tour round the world. These distinguished Frenchmen will travel incognito.

Col. John S. Ford, who has recently died at San Antonio, Texas, was a noted Indian fighter, and was known throughout Texas as "Rip" Ford. He was 82 years of age and was a native of South Carolina.

A London water color painter who ordered soda water at a bar and put it in the eye by mistake, and the barmaid opened the faucet, has recovered $1,500 damages from the proprietor of the restaurant, though no actual injury was done to the eye.

A young man with long curls became heavily indebted to a hairdresser for work done some years ago, and now he explains his insolvent condition by saying that it is due to the iron in his blood, which he inhaled in minute particles during his daily duties.

The Spokane Spokesman-Review says that F. Beeshore, better known as "Curly Curly Bill," had a fight with Jim Hume in the morning, then descended the Rattlesnake trail from his cabin in the mountains at Mineral and obtained a divorce in the afternoon.

The recurring indisposition of the pope has again raised the question of the papal succession, a problem which so far has never been satisfactorily solved. There are no fewer than 11,000 rooms in the papal palace, and many of them never receive a ray of sunlight.

The British museum has books written on bricks, tiles, oyster shells, bones and flint stones, together with manuscripts on bark, ivory leather, parchment, papyrus, lead from copper and wood. It has also 1,000 copies of the Bible written on the leaves of the fan palm.

Alphonse Daudet's innovation of six months ago, when he began to issue his works in fortnightly parts of 24 pages each at 3 cents a part, is bearing fruit. Charles Reade's works will soon be issued in the same way, and other authors announce their intention of following suit.

A prominent capitalist who was recently offered for $75,000 an interest in a business wanted to pay $100,000 a month from the start, responded with this message: "Pay for it out of the first month's earnings. Send the surplus at once." The negotiation failed to go through.

Some expert declares that a sixty minute engagement between two big fleets of the modern type would involve a cost of over $5,000,000. And this estimate takes into view only expenditure of ammunition and wear and tear of guns, leaving out of consideration damages to all loss of vessels.

At the jubilee festivities of King Oscar, of Sweden and Norway, one of the features that appeared most to interest him was the exhibition of the female fire brigade of Kristiania. There are 150 of these women, ranging from 20 to 30 years old, and directed by a male commander, who is married.

Coal has been found at Buluwayo, and that is thought to be the mere edge of vast beds extending north to the Zambesi river. And now Cecil Rhodes has a determination to build a railroad through Rhodesia on to the Z

Publishers' Column.

WATCHES BY MAIL.

The Blade offers its readers this season a new list of watches at less than ordinary retail prices, sent postpaid by mail on receipt of prices marked below. The list embraces two or three cheap but good watches, and three or four better grade of time keepers.

THE KNICKERBOCKER.

A stem winder and stem-setter, having all the modern appliances known to watchmakers' art. The case is solid nickel. It is made on the celebrated thin model plan. Remember, this is not a small clock, commonly called a watch by unscrupulous advertisers, but a highly jeweled nickel movement, made by one of the most celebrated watch manufacturers in America. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer, and if not found exactly as represented, this guarantee is assumed by us. A watch like this a generation ago would have cost $20, if it could have been produced, but the fact is it contains appliances unknown at that time. Each watch has been thoroughly adjusted, and will be sent in perfect running order.

Price $2.00
Same in gold filled hunting case, guaranteed 5 years 6.00

THE SETH THOMAS WATCH.

A genuine American watch, jeweled, and guaranteed an accurate time piece. Nickel, open face, stem wind and stem set, made on the celebrated thin model plan. Price, $4.00.

WALTHAM OR ELGIN, OPEN FACE.

Men's open face gold filled watch, either engraved or engine turned, with Waltham or Elgin works. In the works are seven jewels and all improvements, including expansion balance, plain regulator, etc. The manufacturers guarantee this case to wear 15 years. This watch is open face only, stem winder, pendant set. Price by registered mail, $11.50.

WALTHAM HUNTING CASE.

This watch is the celebrated thin model watch—we mean by thin model that it does not bulge the pocket out of shape or give people the impression that you are carrying a clock movement. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, so thick that they will last fifteen years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. This feature saves many a bill for repairs—a great point for people at a distance from reliable watchmakers. The ring joints, thumb piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear are solid gold, which, of course, will wear for generations. The works contain compensation expansion balance, safety pinion, stem winding and pendant setting apparatus, and many other improvements. The movement is made by the celebrated Waltham Watch Co., and is perfect in construction and durability. This watch comes in hunting case only. Price, $15.00.

SOLID GOLD, LADIES' SIZE.

This watch is a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted 14k. U. S. assay. We use no foreign movements in this watch, but all are either Waltham or Elgin "American" movements according to the wish of the purchaser. The works are jeweled and have compensating balance and safety pinion. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship.

Each watch is a stem winder and setter, and has a tempered hair spring. Price, $20.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert mint master would be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons $1.25
½ dozen teaspoons ..... .85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks 2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks 1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks 2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks 1.15
½ dozen table knives 2.25
1 dozen table knives 4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

SHERIDAN'S RIDE.

Our latest picture is Sheridan at the Battle of Five Forks, size 10x15 inches, and executed in colors. Price 15 cents. This picture cannot be purchased at an art store for less than 75 cents.

Address with remittance in current funds,

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS

Splendid Offer to Lady Reader of The Blade.

READ THE OFFER:

The above pattern or patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. We will fill orders from any person, whether a regular or occasional reader of The Blade. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose ten cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). State both title and number of pattern. No coupon required.

Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

NO. 1233—RHODESIA WAIST.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. A combination of a dressy Eton jacket with a full blouse waist is shown in our illustration. The blouse, which extends below the waist in a full ruffle, and is gauged at the neck, is of brocaded silk, as are the long,

tight-fitting sleeves. The short Eton and the shoulder epaulettes are of velvet trimmed with jet passementerie and frills of lace. Velvet is also used for the high Medici collar. This model will be found useful to renovate half-worn gowns, as it admits of effective combinations. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 778—DAISY APRON.

Sizes for 6, 8, and 10 years. This charming little apron affords a thorough protection to the dress, and in an emergency, or even from choice, it could be used as a substitute for a frock, and for a dressy one, too, if the sleeves be omitted and the neck cut out, as shown in the back view, in which case a guimpe can be worn with it. Any pretty washable goods, colored or white, may be used for this model, and embroidery or lace used for trimming. It is cut with a yoke, to which the skirt is mounted, but if the low neck be desired the yoke may be omitted and the fullness mounted to a band. A special

illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1230—LAURESTINE BLOUSE-WAIST.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. Wine-colored cloth, elaborately braided with black soutache braid and velvet of the same shade, is the fabric of this smart afternoon gown. The waist, which is cut blouse fashion, with a scant frill over the hips, is reversed in front to form a broad revers. The braid trims the blouse very stylish-

ly, and a small bolero jacket is outlined by the same. This blouse waist may be worn independently with any style of skirt as a top garment, or may be used to complete a costume. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

No. 1231—Curleen Skirt.

Sizes medium and large. A popular design in the new four-gored skirt, measuring about four yards at the feet, and is cut plain without a seam in the center of the back. The front and sides are plain, and all the fullness is drawn to the back and laid in deep side plaits. Braid in fancy design or plain trim these skirts, either on the seams or on the hips, or round the bottom of the skirt, as fancy dictates. Velveteen, corduroy, or braid binding and a facing of haircloth or crinoline finish the bottom of these skirts. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

DO NOT FAIL to give the NUMBER of pattern, and MEASUREMENTS. It will save trouble and delay.

NO. 803—WINDOLA HOUSE GOWN.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. No woman's wardrobe is complete without at least one house dress in which she may be thoroughly comfortable without appearing negligee. This becoming model, the "Windola," possesses possibilities that give it a wide range of usefulness. The back is in princess shape, with a Watteau plait, which may be plaited or gathered, and the front is fulled over a waist-lining with the usual

seams, and confined at the waist with a belt. This is an excellent model for ladies who wish to disguise the figure, as the darts may be omitted from the lining, and the front allowed to hang loosely. Flannel and cashmere are the favorite materials for winter wear, while challie, India silk and all kinds of washable materials are used for wear in the warm season. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1237—RANIER CAPE.

A cape is far easier to make than the average coat or blouse, and by a combination of rich materials and handsome trimming can be made both stylish and dressy. A winter cape should always, for health's sake, be cut to extend below the waist line, and at least partly cover the hips. Our model is 27 inches deep, and fits snugly about the shoulders. It is finished with a high storm collar, which may be turned over any depth to suit the wearer. Fancy colored silks are generally used to line these wraps, and if extra warmth be needed fur and heavy quilted linings are used. Fur, feather trimming, and fancy

ruche trimming are the popular finish for these wraps. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1239—GERARDIN WAIST.

Sizes for 34 and 36 bust measure.

No. 1242—Gerardin Waist.

Sizes for 14 and 16 years. For afternoon wear with various skirts this design of a shirt waist and blouse combined is quite the favorite. Our model is checked wool, fulled over a tucked yoke and finished from neck to belt with a broad box-plait. The back is cut in one piece, fitting snugly over the shoul-

ders and slightly full at the waist. A single box-plait down the centre of the back breaks the plainness, and extends into the scant frill which circles the waist. The fullness of the sleeves form a shoulder puff, and the crush belt, broad neck bow and sleeve trimming are all of taffeta silk. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

HIGH PRICES CHARGED.

This is a picture of the first restaurant in the Yukon gold fields. It can scarcely be said to rival any of the fashionable hotels, except perhaps, in the matter of prices charged. It

THE KLONDIKE'S FIRST RESTAURANT.

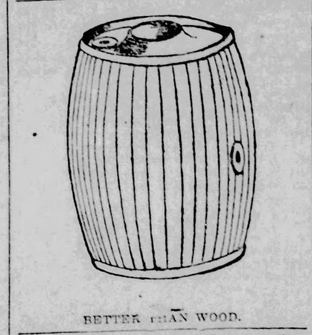
is the chief store in Rampart City, the town which grew up in a couple of weeks after the rush to the gold fields began.

New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc.—Free to Our Readers.

Our readers will be glad to know that the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, has proved an assured cure for all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or by disordered action of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is a wonderful discovery, with a record of 1,200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly upon the blood and kidneys, and is a true specific, just as quinine is in malaria. Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, testifies in the New York Christian Witness that Alkavis completely cured him of Kidney and bladder disease of many years' standing. Many ladies also testify to its curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. So far the Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 418 Fourth avenue, New York, are the only importers of this new remedy, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of the WEEKLY BLADE who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative powers.

STEEL CASKS.

A steel cask is being extensively advertised in England as a substitute for ordinary wooden barrels for shipping petroleum, medicinal extracts, essential oils and chemicals. It is said that the Standard Oil company's German branch has extensively adopted this novel cask. Plain terne-coated steel sheets are employed in its construction, these being first passed through a corrugating machine, which forms parallel corrugations from end to end and considerably stiffen and strengthen the cask when completed. In order to obtain the necessary curvature to the cask it is passed through a second machine, which forms the bilge by making the corrugations of different dimensions; in other words, it opens out the



BETTER THAN WOOD.

corrugations in the middle and presses them at the top and bottom together. A number of hydraulic presses are used to cut out the circular ends and to form in them at the same time a raised section, which assists in stiffening the ends. The parts are then put together, the side seam being closed by means of a specially made machine that produces a perfectly secure joint, but solder is employed to render all portions quite tight.

The advantages claimed for this cask are great durability, strength and exceptionally small repairs. The first cost is greater than that of a wooden barrel, but the extreme length of life, and freedom from loss of contents by breakage, leakage, etc., more than compensate for this. There is no loss by absorption as is the case with wood.

Economical.

Wife—The tailor said he couldn't make the gown for less than two hundred and twenty-five dollars, so I told him to go ahead.

Husband—Why in the world didn't you consult me first?

"I didn't want to spend the car fare for two visits, dear."—Life.

MAKING BEET SUGAR.

FARMERS CAN MANUFACTURE A CRUDE ARTICLE IN A SMALL WAY.

Why It Would Not Be Marketable—Expensive Machinery Required for Refining.

Many farmers are reluctant to take hold of the cultivation of sugar beets because the sugar can only be made on a commercial scale in a large factory, equipped with expensive machinery. The question is often asked by farmers if there is not some way of making sugar from the beets on a small scale for home use, as maple sugar or sorghum molasses is made. They would like to test the matter for themselves, and make their own supply of sugar.

The editor of the Agricultural Epitomist, a monthly farm paper published at Indianapolis, addressed a letter to the agricultural department on this subject, and asked for information as to some process by which farmers may produce beet sugar at home in a small way for their own use.

The idea was to obtain information which will enable the man with a cider or fruit press and a few pots and kettles to do something for himself in this line of work while awaiting the slow development of the beet sugar industry on a larger scale.

In response, Hon. H. W. Wiley, chief of the division of chemistry in the department, wrote the following:

"I have your letter asking me for an expression of opinion in regard to some process by which farmers may produce beet sugar at home in a small way for their own use. In reply, permit me to say that the production of a crude beet sugar in a small way is an extremely simple process.

Not a Commercial Article.

"Any farmer who is equipped with a cider mill for rasping the beets, a cider press for expressing the juice and an evaporator suitable for making sorghum molasses, can produce a crude beet sugar. As a rule, this sugar will not be very palatable, because it is not refined and contains the salts and bitter principles which make raw beet sugar and beet molasses, as a rule, unfit for table use.

"It will be, however, an interesting object lesson to our farmers to demonstrate the fact that the sugar beet itself contains sugar, and that the latter can be made in the crude way I have mentioned above. In this way the making of sugar in a small way by farmers may prove a stimulus to the industry and do great good.

"Farmers, however, should not be deceived by the expectation of being able to make their sugar in a succesful way commercially. The successful and profitable manufacture of sugar can only be accomplished in expensive factories, equipped with all the appliances necessary to make a pure refined sugar. Only the pure refined beet sugar can ever become an article of commerce.

"In this the beet differs from the sugar cane, because the latter will give a sugar which, even in the crude state, is palatable and marketable; in fact, many people prefer crude cane sugar to the refined article on account of its containing the aromatic principles of the cane, which give it an odor and flavor very acceptable to most palates. I trust that any of your readers who may undertake the manufacture of beet sugar in the crude way I have mentioned above may do so only from the point of view indicated, and not with the expectation of making it a commercial success."

YOU CAN FLOAT.

If only people would not lose their presence of mind when an accident occurs many fatalities might be prevented. There are many persons who have never learned to swim and in case of an accident on the water they are perfectly helpless. If they could just remember that any one can float by assuming the right position, their lives would be saved. Do not flounder, open the mouth. Clasp the hands behind the back and turn the face toward the zenith and you will float in spite of yourself. Breath evenly and quietly and you

FLOATING SAFELY.

will find yourself staying at the surface. This is much easier for an amateur than trying to float on one's back, because that requires the person to throw himself out stiff on the water, a hard position for any but an expert swimmer to assume.

NO MORE NEW BUSINESS.

The Self-Sufficient Club is composed entirely of women. It has its constitution and by-laws, and professes to do business in accordance with the rules laid down in Cushing's Manual, but thus far it has been unable to subordinate the love of free speech to the requirements of parliamentary usages. In fact,

"I OBJECT!"

it has never gotten beyond "new business" since organized, says the Detroit Free Press.

It was while working under this head the other evening that Mrs. Snobs, large and impressive, rose to a question of privilege.

"I object," snapped little Mrs. Hittom, whose husband is a lawyer, "to not new business for Mrs. Snobs to talk. She's always at it. Nine tenths of the time of this club has been taken up in listening to her with her questions of privilege and points of order."

During the applause that followed this sally, Mrs. Snobs glared and removed her bonnet in the same spirit that an angry man rolls up his sleeves. For half an hour she poured hot shot into the ranks of the offenders, making a special target of Mrs. Hittom, who raised a point of order every two minutes, but could not get a hearing.

"Mrs. Speaker," shouted a 200-pound woman from the rear of the room, "have you no back bone, or are you ignorant? Sister Snobs rose to a question of privilege, yet she has been yelling and jawing away as though this club had hired her to do its talking. It's about time that some of the rest of us had a chance;" and for twenty minutes the stout lady held the floor against all comers. Then indignation gave way to a babel of voices, protests and denunciations that ended in a noisy adjournment. Now the executive committee announces that nothing will hereafter be done under the head of new business.

Has Your Head Stopped Growing?

The growth of the human head continues until the age of twenty is reached, though it is practically completed at the end of the seventh year.

Hood's Pills

Stimulate the stomach, rouse the liver, cure biliousness, headache, dizziness, constipation, etc. Do not gripe. Easy to take, easy to operate. 25c. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Consumption is Curable

From Dr. Hunter's Lectures On the Progress of Medical Science in Lung Diseases.

The question of vital importance to those afflicted with any disease of the breathing organs is, "Can it be cured?" and if so, "By what mode of treatment?" I have already explained how bronchial, catarrhal and asthmatic disease is cured, and now come to speak of Consumption, the most dreaded of lung maladies.

Its usual symptoms are cough, expectorations of matter from the lungs, shortness of breath, loss of flesh and strength, hectic fever and night sweats.

These symptoms are caused by the lung disease. To effect cure the cough and expectoration must cease, the breathing become free and natural, and the lost flesh and strength be regained.

I have effected this happy termination of consumption in thousands of cases, embracing every form and stage of the disease.

James Bynum, aged 42, was the last survivor of a consumptive family, two brothers and a sister having previously died of the disease. He was afflicted several years with catarrh and bronchitis before he learned that his lungs were affected. From June to October he was treated by the late Prof. Swett, who pronounced him in consumption, with no hope of recovery. Before consulting me he had had several severe attacks of hemorrhage. His cough was incessant, and expectoration purulent. Every afternoon he had a chill, followed by hectic fever, and at night was bathed in cold, clammy prespiration. In three and a half months before the 10th of October he had lost 27 pounds in weight. On examining his chest I found a large cavity in the apex of the left lung, from which he was coughing up a mixture of pus and softened tubercle.

Considering the emaciated condition to which he was reduced, and the natural weakness of his lungs, it was impossible not to feel the gravest doubts of his recovery. My first prescription was made on the 10th of October, and I continued to treat him through the following winter and summer. In a little over a year he was so far recovered as to be able to resume attention to his business, and in a few months more the cavity had entirely healed, every symptom of the disease had left him and he was within seven pounds of his best weight before his illness.

The recovery of so desperate a case, pronounced hopeless by so eminent a lung authority as the Professor of Theory and Practice in the University of New York, ought to be considered conclusive.

Many other cases equally as bad as Bynum's have been restored to health by the same treatment. It consists in the use of my inhaling instrument three or four times a day, charged with germicidal agents and healing medicines adapted to the requirements of each case. This carries a warm medicated vapor into the lungs and through every minute tube and cell of the breathing organs. At night the air of the patient's bedroom is medicated, that every breath he draws during the hours of sleep may carry a soothing and healing action to his lungs. In the morning his chest is anointed with antiseptic oils, which volitilize by the heat of the body, surrounding him by a zone of medicated air acting curatively on his lungs day and night. No other lung treatment in the world is so direct, powerful and effective. It appeals to the intelligence and common sense of all. It lengthens the breathing, expands the chest and increases flesh and strength where all other means have been tried in vain. Go ask those who have been cured by my treatment, and they will convince you that all I say of it in Bynum's case was as fully realized in their own, Joseph Harris, Esq., Treasurer, Iron Hall, 817 Equitable Building, Baltimore, Md.; A. L. Peer, Esq., 159 Washington street, Newark, N. J.; Mr. Edward J. Raynor, Foreman, Walsh & Co., Confectioners, Newark, N. J.; Mrs. Milford Jones, Dover, N. J.; Mr. Mendenhall, of Harper Bros., New York City; Lambert Miller, Esq., of H. B. Claflin Co., New York City, and hundreds of others. If their testimony does not convince you, nothing will. You are, like Ephraim, wedded to his idols, and ought to be let alone and permitted to live or die undisturbed by the discoveries and improvements of medical science.

(Signed.) ROBERT HUNTER, M. D.,
117 W. 45th street, New York
December 8.

NOTE.—Readers of The Blade who are interested for themselves or friends will receive a copy of Dr. Hunter's book by addressing him as above.

A POOR PEACE OFFERING.

He got off the car with a bunch of chrysanthemums in his hand, says the Washington Star. It was a ragged, withered, muddy, disreputable-looking bunch of white chrysanthemums. Their heads hung down and their petals were half gone. He stopped under a street lamp and looked at them doubtfully. Then he shook them vigorously.

"Wake up, there! Have I got to sprinkle you again?" he said, looking at them reproachfully. "I'sh sprinkled you three times already. I don't like your looks. I don't think you'll do. No, I don't think you'll do. You jush won't get nothing done to me when I get home."

Then he gave the flowers another shake and addressed himself to a Star reporter who was standing near:

"Whash you shink about it? Do you shink they'll do? A friend of mine gave me these

"I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK."

to take home as a peace offering to my wife." A sort of deprecatory smile played around his face, and he assumed an air of good-natured familiarity. "I don't shink they'll do. Won't you sprinkle them for me onch more?"

Then he began to soliloquize: "It's my last play. I don't shink it'll work. I shink I shee the finish. Shpec' I'd better shleep in the furnish room to-night. Folks that ain't married don't know about theshe things. Have to take flowers and such home to your wife. Have to put on straight face—great dignity. Push flowers in front of you: 'Brought you shome flowers, my dear.' Then slide off to bed. But I can see the finish. It won't work. If you were roses you might do! But you ain't roses, and you need shprinkling."

Reciprocity.

"Thou has raised me to the seventh
Heaven of bliss," he says,
And then he buys her ice cream soda—
In other words, he sees the raise.
—Detroit Journal.

SAVE MONEY. **FREE! FREE!**

Send for our 1898 Souvenir Art Catalogue—with colored frontispiece, representing An Ancient Egyptian Choir—originally painted for $5 by a celebrated artist, and reproduced in fac-simile. The new Catalogue contains our 1898 models of the Celebrated Cornish American Pianos and Organs, over 50 styles to select from. Mention this paper and we will send it free, with postage paid. In MEMPHIS we are the only firm of actual manufacturers selling exclusively to the general public direct, at factory cost—the only firm where you get exact value for your money. There are no agents, dealers or middlemen's profits added.

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ESTABLISHED 26 YEARS.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.

FAVORS HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION, AND NO CUBAN INTERFERENCE.

Suggestions for Currency Reform, Especially Greenbacks—Congress Should Break "Endless Chain."

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth Congress assembled at the seat of government, with many of whose Senators and Representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgment to a beneficent Providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation. Peace and good will with all the nations of the earth continue unbroken.

The extra session of this Congress, which closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effect has not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value, further time will be required and the people, satisfied with its operation and results thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

THE CURRENCY.

Secretary Gage's Plan Referred To—Holding the Greenbacks.

Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of Congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of currency. The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government since 1866. On the 30th day of June of that year we had outstanding demand liabilities in the sum of $778,808,447.41. On the 1st of January, 1879, these liabilities had been reduced to $443,889,495.88. Of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more strong. On July 1, 1866, the principal of the interest-bearing debt of the government was $2,332,331,208. On the first day of July, 1893, this sum had been reduced to $585,037,100, or an aggregate reduction of $1,747,294,108. The interest-bearing debt of the United States on the 1st day of November, 1897, was $847,365,620. The government money now outstanding December 1 consists of $346,681,016 of United States notes; $107,793,280 of treasury notes issued by authority of the law of 1890; $384,963,503 of silver certificates, and $61,280,761 of standard silver dollars.

Should Revise the Currency.

With the great resources of the government, and with the honorable example of the past before us, we ought not to hesitate to enter upon a currency revision which will make out demand obligations less onerous to the government, and relieve our financial laws from ambiguity and doubt.

There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the evil. Before we can find the true remedy, we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the government's pledge is out to keep it so, and that pledge will not be broken. However, the guarantee of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advancing toward its fulfillment.

The Weak Point.

The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money; that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, even under fairly prosperous conditions; while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the national credit.

It is manifest that we must devise some plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or increase the gold reserve for their redemption.

We have $900,000,000 of currency which the government, by solemn enactment, has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The government is obliged to keep all of its issues equal with gold all its outstanding currency and coin obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the only means by which the government can with certainty get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most needs it. The government, without any fixed gold revenue, is pledged to maintain its gold redemption, which it has steadily and faithfully done, and which, under the authority now given it, will continue to do.

The Endless Chain.

The law which requires the government, after having redeemed its United States notes, to pay them out again as current funds, demands a constant replenishment of the gold reserve. This is especially so in times of business panic, and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. At such times the government has no other way to supply its deficit and maintain redemption but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when $262,315,400 of 4½ per cent. bonds were issued and sold, and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the government in excess of the revenues, and to sustain the gold reserve. While it is true that the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was required to maintain the gold reserve.

With revenues equal to our expenses there would be no deficit requiring the issuance of bonds. But if the gold reserve falls below $100,000,000, how will it be replenished except by selling more bonds? Is there any other way practicable under existing laws? The serious question then is, shall we continue the policy that has been pursued in the past—that is, when the gold reserve reaches the point of danger issue more bonds, and supply the needed gold, or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the gold reserve? If no further legislation is had, and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then Congress should give the secretary of the Treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods, bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law.

Hold the Greenback!

I earnestly recommend, as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold, and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart, and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold, and gets it from the government he should not receive back from the government a United States note without paying gold for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes, a non-interest bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way, they may return again, to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest bearing debt.

Providing the Gold.

In my view, it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the burden of providing all of the gold required for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government, without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the Treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped.

If we are to have an era of prosperity in the country, with sufficient receipts for the expenses of the government, we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency, but the danger still exists, and will be ever present, menacing us so long as the existing system continues. And, besides, it is in times of adequate revenues and business tranquility that the government should prepare for the worst. We cannot avoid, without serious consequences, the prompt solution of this question.

The secretary of the Treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration.

National Banks.

I concur with the secretary of the Treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes, secured by deposit of such bonds, be reduced to one-half of 1 per cent. per annum.

I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of $25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs.

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denominations of $10 and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of Congress, then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

REGARDING CUBA.

Recognition of Belligerency Would Be Unwise at Present.

The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal pertaining to its foreign relations concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have con-

Concluded on Seventh Page.

Blade Porcelain China

A NEW THING.

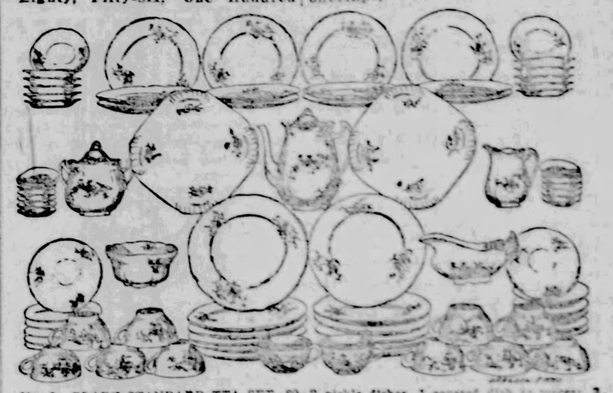
Tea Sets and Dinner Sets

Still Another Reduction in Prices, and New Ware With Later Designs.

Briefly described, Porcelain, or Semi-Vitreous China, is a very high grade ware, being superior in color and finish to Iron Stone China, and VERY MUCH LIGHTER IN WEIGHT, nearly equal to china.

Our design is the VIOLET PATTERN, being very handsome and entirely new, and a marvel of beauty in shape and color.

Eighty, Fifty-Six, One Hundred and Eight or Twenty-eight pieces handsomely decorated in four colors and gold bands. These goods are made especially for THE BLADE, and we guarantee the highest quality of goods, the best grade of workmanship, the latest and most stylish shape of pieces as well as late and artistic design of decoration. The following illustration is reproduced from a photograph of our new offerings.



No. 1.—BLADE STANDARD TEA SET, 80 PIECES.—We have sold thousands of sets of these goods, and in every case the customer received more than expected. This year we expect to send out at the reduced prices over Five Thousand Sets. This set consists of 80 pieces, as follows: 12 breakfast plates, 12 tea plates, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 fruit dishes, 12 individual butter dishes, 2 round cake plates, 1 tea pot, 1 cover, 1 sugar bowl, 1 cover, 1 cream pitcher, and 1 bowl.

The No. 1 Blade Standard Tea Set, 80 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, $4.75 (former price $7) or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of seven subscribers and $7. The club of seven names to be sent all at one time.

No. 2.—BLADE TEA SET, 56 PIECES.—This set is exactly like the above illustrated 80-piece Tea Set, deducting 12 breakfast plates and 12 individual butter plates.

The No. 2 Tea Set, 56 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $3.60 (former price $5.50); or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of six subscribers and $6. The club of six names to be sent all at one time.

No. 3.—BLADE DINNER SET, 108 PIECES.—We can describe this set by taking the above illustrated 8-piece Tea Set and adding the following: 12 soup plates, 1 9-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish to serve, 2 casseroles, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish, 1 slop bowl, and 1 jug, making a total of 108 pieces.

The No. 3 Blade Dinner Set, 108 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $7.85; or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of 18 subscribers and $13.00. The club of 15 names to be sent all at one time.

No. 4.—BLADE CHINA SORTS, 28 PIECES, consisting of 12 soup plates, 1 8-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish to serve, 2 casseroles, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish, 1 slop bowl, and 1 jug. We also offer this to those who may first purchase a No. 1 Standard Tea Set, and afterwards desire to have a complete dinner set.

The No. 4 Blade China Sorts, 28 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $4.25; or we will present one of these assortments to any person sending us a club of eight subscribers and $8. The club of eight names all to be sent at one time.

NOTE.—These sets are decorated with a later pattern than those we formerly sold, and consequently will not match with former purchases. We recommend our readers to buy first, our No. 1 Blade Standard Set, and afterwards, if pleased with it, add to that set our No. 4 set, the two combined making you a complete dinner set.

General Directions and Information.

ORDER BY NUMBER.—The goods are carefully packed in box by manufacturer and shipped direct from the pottery to the purchaser upon our order. We shall order every package shipped by freight unless otherwise instructed. The receiver pays transportation. From 25 cents to $1, according to distance, will cover freight charges on a set. Never will it may cost somewhere near $2 to pay freight to points beyond the Rockies. We do not advise shipping by express. Never before was so much value offered for so little money. Twenty years ago only the rich could afford such goods as we offer here. We guarantee these goods the best Porcelain China in the world, superior in enamel ware to the best Iron Stone China, and the best decorated ware. You make no profit. We want and will have, as a result of this offer, thousands of clubs. These prices will be doubled in the house of every reader of The Blade. Any person who will try it can raise a club of six to fifteen for The Blade in one day. Get about it before some one else canvasses the field. We are prepared to fill orders promptly.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK

BLUINE CO., Box 2, Concord Junction, Mass

VIRGINIA FARMS etc. Large and small. Free Catalogue. E. B. Claflin & Co., Inc., Richmond, Va.

I DESIRE the acquaintance of a true loving man or woman from 18 to 35, dark hair, blue eyes, medium size, and love Music. A. J. McHenry, Box 203, Lyons, N. Y.

WANTED MEN

CARDS FOR 1898. 50 Sample Styles and Agents' Outfit 2c.

HERE IS A PUZZLE.

HARTZ & CRAY, Box 607, New York, N. Y.

A Hornless Bracer.

A well-known physician says that when fagged out by professional work he recruits his strength by eating raisins, and not by drinking wine or spirits.

... THE COZY CORNER ...

AT THE DOOR.

I thought myself indeed secure,
So fast the door, so firm the lock;
But, lo! he toddling comes to lure
My parent ear with timorous knock.

My heart were stone could it withstand
The sweetness of my baby's plea—
That timorous baby knocking, and
"Please let me in—it's only me."

I threw aside the unfinished book,
Regardless of its tempting charms,
And, opening wide the door, I took
My laughing darling in my arms.

Who knows but in eternity,
I, like a truant child, shall wait
The glories of a life to be,
Beyond the Heavenly Father's gate?

And will that Heavenly Father heed
The truant's supplicating cry,
As at the outer door I plead,
"'Tis I, O Father! only I"?
—Eugene Field.

While we are all thinking of our Christmas preparations for the little ones of our families, "Dollie" has met with a question regarding the Patron Saint of that happy season, which she wishes some of the Cozy Corner friends to answer for her:

I am a much interested reader of the dear old Blade, and especially this page, and as I have not seen anything regarding a subject that has been troubling me I will ask your advice.

It is this: Is it right or wrong to teach the children that there is a Santa Claus? I never thought of the matter seriously until a short time ago, when I uncovered the fireplace to put a fire in the grate.

"Hello, Santa Clause!" came from our 4-year-old boy, and "Hello, Santa Taus!" from his baby sister. Then followed several questions regarding the old fellow and both begged me not to put a fire in the grate for fear of burning his toes.

I happened to think I could not answer their questions without telling them falsehoods, so drew their minds to something else as soon as I could.

I never will forget the sorrow I felt when I learned that there wasn't any Santa Claus, I thought I had lost my best friend.

It is such a pleasure to watch the little darlings on Christmas morning, it seems a pity to spoil all their bright anticipations, but I do not wish to teach them anything wrong.

One of Miss Prudence's girls comes in this morning bringing with her a bit of the enthusiasm of the school-girl and of the appreciation of older people that is such a charming feature of any young person's character:

I fear you will all think that I am beginning to love the Cozy Corner better than our own M. G. R.

Perhaps you may have decided that I am old, or lazy, that I come so often seeking an easy chair in your quiet homelike corner, but I hope you have discovered ere this that although not very old myself I dearly love the company of older people, which will account for my coming so often.

"Bugler Ben," I enjoyed your story of the war very much, for we are at present studying the civil war in school, and are searching our large library for points of interest and instruction. I should like to tell you more of our school life here, but will tell that to the M. G. R.'s who will perhaps be more interested.

I am very much interested in Jane Allison's query, for three of us are keeping house here, and coming from farm homes where a supply of eatables of all kinds is constantly kept in the house, it seems very expensive to buy small amounts of things so often, and yet we could not use a very large amount. Shall be glad to hear this discussed.

I wish I could talk with "Perplexed" a little while.

If the friends are near and dear enough to be "loved" just "love" them. Oftentimes the silent sympathy and only a word of love will open the way for further conversation. And why not speak of them? The dear ones have only gone on to that beautiful homeland and our sweetest thoughts should be of their happiness there, and our dearest plans of how we shall live that we may join them there.

So, if after a warm kind greeting the bereaved seem inclined to speak of their loss, talk lovingly with them of the great gain for the loved one, and the happiness which is in store for all of us "over there."

I think you can trust your own sensitive nature to decide if that would be an unwelcome subject, and if so talk brightly of the interests of your lives, the events of the world or other pleasant occurrences. Lovingly your friend, Earnest Westerner.

Frances Howard sends this bit of comfort to her friends in the Cozy Corner, saying to them that this expresses better than she could ever expect to, her ideas on the subject:

Two neighboring crones, antique and gray,
Talked together at close of day;
One said, with brow of wrinkled care:
"Life's cup at first, was sweet and fair;
On our young lips with laughter gay,
Its cream of brimming nectar lay;
But rapid then it grew and stale,
And tiresome as a twice-told tale;
And here, in weary age and pain,
Its bitter dregs alone remain."

The other, with contented eye,
Laid down her work and made reply:
"Yes, life was bright at morning-tide.
Yet, when the foam and sparkle died,
More rich, methought, and purer too,
Its well-concocted essence grew;
E'en now, though low its spirit drains,
And little in the cup remains,
There's sugar at the bottom still,
And we may taste it if we will."
—Mrs. Sigourney.

Our "Iowa Farmer's Wife" tells us what a dear little helper she has at home:

As children seem to be the important topic for conversation just at present, would like to ask if any of the mothers has as young a would-be helper as I? My little daughter, just two years and seven months old, takes great delight in trying to do everything mamma does. If washing dishes, she must stand on a chair and dry the knives, forks, spoons and tinware, and you would be surprised to see how well she does it, too; in paring vegetables she has a dull knife and works away as industriously as can be, at dusting, sewing and so forth it is just the same trying to help. Of course, just now it is quite a nuisance to humor her and more of a hindrance than help, but as she shows such a disposition and willingness, and being the only child, I think it best to do so.

What do others think?

I would like to ask if Life's Gateways is a book which would make a suitable present for old or young, gentleman or lady?

Life's Gateways is intended to be a help to any one, irrespective of age or sex. Read the offer made on this page in reference to the book and a renewal of your subscription to the Weekly Blade.

From a new correspondent, Victoria Alexandra Stone, comes this very strong denunciation of a fault that is altogether too common, that of injuring the present usefulness of a person by recalling mistakes they may have made in former years. Whether or no this friend has personal reasons for writing so strongly on the subject, her ideas are correct and worth our consideration:

Reader, if you had committed a sin 20 years ago and had borne the consequences of your sin at the time, and since then had lived a correct life, a life utterly devoid of offense, a life of charity and usefulness, would it not be most cruel and wicked for any one to regale their friends with an account of your old offense, so as to give you pain and interfere with your present usefulness? Believe me, the man who repents and follows up his repentance with a life of usefulness, is the man before all others is worthy of our sympathy. We have the testimony of the Bible that such men are the best-beloved of heaven, that there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over many who have never gone astray. The person who takes up some forgotten sin of yours, even some expiated and buried sin, to injure your influence for the right and true, which you are laboring earnestly to manifest in the present, that person is guilty of a heinous offense; he is laboring in the service of Satan, his work is that of a scavenger, and he is without excuse in any honorable soul.

And let me say right here that supposing a person had violated every comma of ment in the decalogue, the farther in the past we have these things the more worthy we are of the good will of all good Christian men and women, and the person who seeks to revive the unhappy past that it may blight and darken the present, that person is a graver offender than his victim ever was.

And in conclusion let me ask have you no sins to be forgiven? We are all weak and sinful enough, God knows, so let him that is without sin cast the first stone.

Our always welcome friend, Margaret Dane, sends the following verses:

Jack Frost went out quite late one night,
And took a stroll by the pale moonlight.
He crossed the brook by a crystal bridge
And made his way to the top of a ridge.

There he found some flowers of gold,
And touched them all with his fingers cold,
Their leaves he turned to russet brown,
And the flowers of gold, to soft, white down.

A purple aster he gave such a fright
That ere the dawn, her hair turned white.
He walked through the wood where the maples stand
And changed them red, by a touch of his wand.

He unlocked the burrs of the chestnut trees
So Bun could gather his store with ease.
And when the dawn of day was come
He turned him back and hastened home.

W. P. E., asks the following question: "What should the 'X' be called in the following sentence: 'The first surgical operation with X-Rays aid, was made by Dr. Bergaman, etc,' some say it should be 'ex' rays; others, 'cross-rays,' and yet others, 'multiplied' rays. Which is correct?"

It is "ex" rays. This is the name Prof. Roentzen gave to the rays by which he produced his pictures. It indicates in an algebraical form the unknown character of the rays and their action. "Multiplied" rays might be correctly applied to the same thing in one sense, but as the rays are parallel, the "cross" rays would not be at all correct. This information was obtained from one of the best surgeons in the state, and can be relied upon as being correct.

Mary Ettie asks who is the author of the following lines:

"May every soul that touches mine,
Be it the slightest contact, get some good,
Some little grace, some kindly thought,
Some aspiration yet unfelt, some bit of courage,
For the darkening sky, some gleam of faith
To brave the thickening ills of life;
Some glimpse of brightening skies
Beyond the gathering mists;
To make this world worth while,
And heaven a surer heritage."

Will the correspondent who signed her letter "Klondyke," send full name and address?

I have this week received two stories from children, a boy and a girl, who say they are "12 years old," and this is their first attempt at publishing their stories. Both ask to be paid "at the usual rates." One of these precocious children wishes the manuscript returned "at once" if not accepted, but fails to enclose stamps; the other wishes to know what our terms are.

Our terms with each of these young people would be a very much more intimate acquaintance on their part, with the spelling book and grammer and that they have something to say. One writes: "I have written stories before, but have kept them from the public," for this we commend him, and will certainly follow his example, and keep this one "from the public" as far as we are able. He offers, upon receipt of terms, if they suit him, to send us a "continued Indian story," upon which he is now engaged. We must respectfully, but firmly decline the story whether it is of a "continued Indian," or of a finished Indian—we can not use anything of the kind, unless at least a quarter of the words are spelled correctly, and the writing such that the meaning of the words can be guessed at, at least. If the young lady who sends the other story, which she assures us is of her "own make up" wishes it returned, she should enclose postage for that purpose.

Both of these children state, as a reason why we should purchase the absurd nonsense they send us, that their father has long been a subscriber to The Blade, and would like to see their child's story published. Possibly they would, but it is my opinion that if these "stories" should appear just as they are written, that the average father would at once order his paper stopped, for printing such things.

If the children (and there are very many of them, and, strange to say, they are nearly always "only twelve years of age") who send these efforts to the papers, would give a few more years to preparation, they would confer a favor upon the editors, and stand a much greater chance of seeing the "efforts" in print.

"The way to live—the only right way to live—is to put away that overweening sense of personal rights and merit which we all have, more or less, which is the motive power of much that we do, and which makes the struggles that turn life into such a weariness, if it does not reach a misery."—Life's Gateways.

THE COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

Following the example of other educational societies, the cooks in a certain city are accustomed to hold regular conferences as to the best methods of helping men and women to reach a higher plane of living by furnishing them with the proper food to develop their physical organization, believing that upon this depends, in a great measure, their mental and moral improvement.

At one of these meetings the question of the relative value of foods for supplying extra strength and endurance was discussed, and from the result of experiments and the testimony of travelers, which had been collected, it was decided that where a very large amount of muscular work was required better results were obtained by administering sugar in considerable quantities.

Prof. Tyndall used to say that his Alpine guides ate butter and honey while climbing, finding that these supplied the greatest amount of heat and strength. He himself found sufficient strength for his work by nibbling a cake of chocolate every two hours.

Many ladies have difficulty in preparing chocolate for receptions and five o'clock teas. Here is a recipe for preparing it that was sent to The Blade by one who is noted for the excellence of the chocolate she serves. An additional recommendation is that it may be prepared several hours before it is needed, and so can be always on hand to serve to unexpected callers:

Five O'Clock Chocolate.

MRS. L. L. B.

Wet 1 lb. of powdered chocolate in a little cold milk and stir into 2 qts. of boiling milk. Let it boil 10 minutes, then add 3 tablespoonfuls of sugar and 1 pt. of cream. Turn into a double boiler; keep the water in the lower boiler at the boiling point for one-half hour, then remove from the fire, and, when cool, stir in 3 tablespoonfuls of vanilla extract. Serve by putting 1 tablespoonful in a cup and filling with boiling water. Sugar and cream should be passed with this, as many people prefer more of these than are given in the recipe.

Sweet Potato Sauce.

Place over the fire in a saucepan, 1 cupful of sweet cream, or very rich milk; ½ cupful of butter and ½ cupful of sugar. When scalding hot drop into it boiled sweet potatoes, either hot or cold that have been cut crosswise in slices about ½ inch thick and lightly dusted with flour. When the potatoes are heated through, they are ready to serve.

Mock Mince Pie.

One cupful of raisins, 1 of bread crumbs, 1 of sugar (heaping), 2½ cupfuls of chopped apples; ¼ cupful of butter, ¼ cupful molasses, 1 teaspoonful cinnamon ½ teaspoonful each of cloves and allspice, vinegar to taste and hot water to reduce the mixture to the consistency of mince meat. Cook till the apples are soft and well mixed with the other ingredients. This will make four pies.

The above recipes were sent by Shan's Wife, and with them some very kind and encouraging words, for which the Cook thanks her.

Mrs. M. J. McW., asks for a recipe for making "grain cuffee," to take the place of the genuine coffee, and how to prepare it from the beginning.

D. B. S. S. wishes a recipe for making "Gluten Biscuits."

Many friends have sent the recipe for the "Devil's Food Cake," and though all could not be published, the Cook returns thanks to every one who sent it. They were all very nearly the same as the one published.

A SPLENDID OFFER.

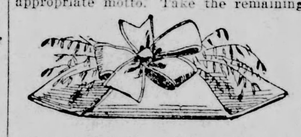
As the holidays are rapidly approaching, Miss Bouton, after consulting with the publishers of the paper, has arranged to make the following offer for a limited time to those of her Household friends whose subscription to The Blade expires in the near future. If $1.25 is enclosed in a letter addressed to her personally, she will forward postpaid a cloth bound copy of her last book, Life's Gateways, and see that the name is entered as a subscriber to the Weekly Blade for another year. Those familiar with Miss Bouton's writing know that the book cannot fail to be helpful and encouraging, and will make a fine holiday gift. A portrait of the author forms the frontispiece.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB.

In answer to a request for some cheap and easily made Christmas gifts, we give this week, first:

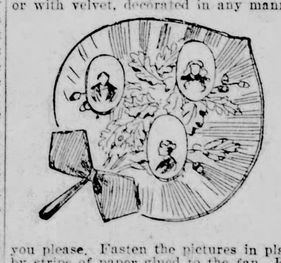
A Fancy Blotter.

Take three square pieces of blotting paper, lay them smoothly together, decorate two opposite corners with some easy design in pencil or painting, and some appropriate motto. Take the remaining



corners and fasten them with a few stitches and cover them with a bow of wide ribbon. The blotter may be further decorated by adding the flowers, as shown in the illustration.

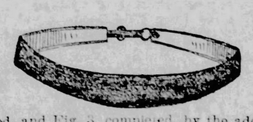
Another pretty, and easily made gift is the photograph holder, shown in illustration No. 2. For this a large palm-leaf fan may be used, openings for the pictures being cut with very sharp scissors and the space around these being decorated with flowers and vines in water colors. Or, the shape may be cut from heavy card-board. After the openings are made, cover the front with brocaded silk, or with velvet, decorated in any manner



you please. Fasten the pictures in place by strips of paper glued to the fan. For the back, cover another piece of card board with silk, or linen and over-hand the two pieces together. Finish with a cord around the edge and a bow of ribbon on the handle of the fan.

In the third illustration we show the method of making a gentleman's flat scarf, with stock attachment. Fig. 1 is

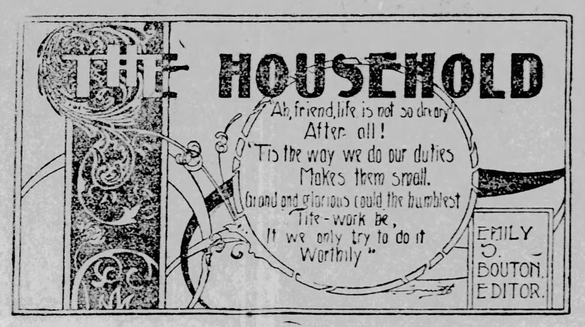
cut from stiff paste-board and covered on one side with heavy black silk and lined with white silk. The elastic at the back is just long enough to allow the stock to fit nicely. Fig. 2 shows how it is fastened, and Fig. 3, completed, by the addition of the wide scarf of black silk, lined either with white or colors, as you choose.



This can be made at home, of pieces of silk, and will look as well, and cost much less, than similar ones purchased at a furnishing store.

Mrs. O. B. T., asks the price of the chest protectors mentioned in this column a few weeks ago. Those from which the designs were taken cost from two dollars to five dollars. They can be made at home for very much less, and if desired simply for their comfort and usefulness, can be made of dark flannel, lined with cambric, with an interlining of cotton batting.

I saw one worn by a man whose work was almost entirely out of doors, which was made of outing flannel, quilted and lined with the same cloth, and was made double, that is, it protected the lungs from the back as well as from the front.



MARCHING TO MUSIC.

WHEN IT CEASES STILL MUST WE MARCH AND DO OUR WORK.

Some of Those Who Have Never Faltered—It Requires a Brave Heart to Stand Alone.

"And this is the task before us,
A task we may never shirk,
In the gay time and the sorrowful time
We must march and do our work.
We must march when the music cheers us,
March when the strains are dumb,
Plucky and valiant, forward march!
And smile whatever may come."

Margaret E. Sangster has put into these lines, as indeed in the whole poem from which it is taken, a truth, which, sooner or later, everybody who is zealous and determined to fulfil a purpose in life that seems to him to wear the garb of duty, must learn thoroughly. Especially is this true of the man or woman who, stepping out a little in advance of their fellows, is attempting to bring about some change for the betterment of existing conditions, and the consequent lifting up of some part of humanity. In the beginning, there may be enthusiasm and good cheer because people always like to have their neighbors reformed, but when it comes home and necessitates self-denial, self-sacrifice, the altering of customs grown dear through long continuance, the music is pretty apt to "become dumb," and it takes a good deal of pluck and valor to march on and work without making a moan, and "to smile whatever may come."

I could not help thinking of this as I looked at Susan B. Anthony sitting upon the platform during her late visit to this city. Well may all women unite to do her honor, and all men also, for whatever may be the judgment as to the wisdom of woman suffrage, none can fail to recognize in her a courage, a perseverance, an endurance, an energy, united to the warm heart of a good, true woman, rarely equaled and seldom surpassed. Over fifty years ago, in the morning of her days, convinced that if life, liberty and pursuit of happiness were inalienable rights, women as well as men should have a voice in the making of the laws by which these "rights" are to be obtained and preserved, she gave up all that women most prize, and took up the thankless task of warring against ideas crystalized by time, against prejudices that seemed a part of the very nature, and went to work to bring about the change that appeared to her, as to other brave souls, a necessity for the advancement of woman. And how she has battled! How bravely she has borne continually, ridicule and fiery opposition! Side by side with a few others in those earlier years, she and they marched, when there were no "merry strains of music" to cheer and to inspirit.

"For the desolate march and the silent
The strong soul finds the grace."

Had they not found it, the story of woman's life would read very differently to-day.

I do not propose to enter into the history of Miss Anthony's prolonged and unceasing efforts for the good of all,—for whatever inures to the benefit of woman, whatever advances her character-growth and her influence uplifts the home where the children are reared—but I want to call attention, as I have done before, to the beauty of her life of self-abnegation. The time will come when it will be better appreciated than it is now. The cause of woman suffrage has many advocates to-day. In its ranks are representatives of the rich, the educated, the social leaders, the business women, and though still not wholly popular, its adherents are no longer banned as monstrosities. Each one who works stands shoulder to shoulder with many others, and the ranks are filling, slowly perhaps, but surely. By and by, the time will come when it will not be so hard to press this work forward.

And you don't get tired, you feel inspired,
With your comrades all in line,
"For it's easy to march to music
And life is a draught divine."

Would that the time might come while Susan B. Anthony, the devoted, fearless, tireless worker for what she believes right, and those who have stood by her side during these half century of years, still walk in the body. Meanwhile let all women, whether believing in woman suffrage or not, honor this one who has given her life's opportunities and labors to humanity.

What is true of Miss Anthony, of the long years in which she had to meet the sneers and the jeers of the public, is true, as I said before, of all who attempt to change the world's ways. It requires "a strong soul" to go on, unswerved from the path of struggle. I have just read a short but striking article by John Brisben Walker in the current Cosmopolitan about Henry George and Charles A. Dana. In the beginning of their lives both were moved to protest against existing conditions and to desire to bring about something better. In their after careers "the importance of a slow and patient development if a great end is to be reached" was clearly illustrated. Dana went from college to Brook Farm, to the stimulus of the companionship of the great men gathered there. Henry George began, when little more than a boy, to struggle for his portion of life's necessities. On board of a sailing vessel —"out on the endless seas"—he found his "Brook Farm," but he learned through the long and silent watches of the night, something of the meaning of living. "When God molds a prophet, he places him for a while in the wilderness, so that he may be formed after the vastness of his own heart." Henry George returned home to give out his first great message to the world "which received it, as it has been the custom of the world to receive all great messages, including that of Christ himself, first in contemptuous silence and later on with ignominy." And still he went on, loving and working for his fellow-men.

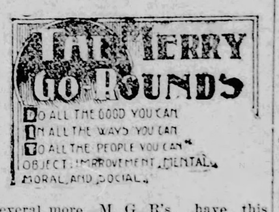
At Brook Farm Charles A. Dana enthusiastically advocated human brotherhood. He wrote that social reform comprehended all others, "and in laboring for its speedy accomplishment, we are conscious of devotion to the enslaved, to the elevation of the toiling and down-trodden masses, to the inborn rights of humanity." As Mr. Walker says it was not only a brilliant but a generous soul who wrote these words. But who can recognize him in the later Dana, intellectually magnificent as he was, but pessimistic, cynical and doubtful of all human virtue? The change came through his shock at finding that the world had no sympathy with those who, in the Brook Farm experiment, were looking to the world's benefit. The "bugles did not lead the column," and the column was forced to melt away amid the jeers and laughter of the lookers-on.

It is indeed only the strong soul which finds the grace to persevere under such circumstances, which can retain its sweetness, and its readiness to endure until some comprehension comes of its unselfish purposes.

"For whether life's hard or easy
The strong man keeps the pace."
EMILY S. BOUTON.

MY DEBT.

This to the world I owe:
A ready ear for others' grief—a smile
Of sympathy—quick glance to show
Appreciation—meanwhile,
In strong leash, my heart to hold,
And down rebellious thought—
For my brother's wrong, strike bold,
And ready kindness give, unsought;
All this is due, to-day—
And I must surely pay.
LOUISE HOUGHTON.



Several more M. G. R's., have this week, taken advantage of the "cut price" of the badges, and are now, as one of our number has expressed it, "showing their colors." Should the badge be the means o frecognition of M. G. R's—please report and tell the circumstances.

Several of our "former members," as one of them expresses it, have been impelled by the spirit of the Thanksgiving time to return to us this week and we are heartily glad to hear from them. Some new friends have also come in, among them one who is "somebody's sister," and it is now in order for you to guess to whom "Salome" is related. Here is her letter:

Dear Miss Prudence:—Will you admit "an oldish girl" (that's what I heard myself called the other day) to your M. G. R. circle? It was no lack of courage, but lack of time for writing that has kept me from asking admittance before. Like N. E. Girl, I have never seen the time when I could not find work enough to do. Through my mother's illness the burden of housekeeping fell upon my shoulders, just as I entered my teens, and from that time to this (and my teens are a quite a distance behind me, now), my days and sometimes half my nights, have been crowded so full of work that I have not had time to stop and think about being lonely. In all my life I have never had a "really and truly vacation;" but I am always well, and manage to get a lot of enjoyment out of life. Busy as I am, I always find some time for reading. I like novels, but do not allow myself to read any but the best.

Raven, in one thing, at least, we are kindred—talking for cats and dogs, I have a liking for all animals.

Rosie Lee, I too, never really liked dish-washing; but then dishes must be washed, and when a pile of dirty dishes confront me, I just "draw a long breath" and go at them. With plenty of hot water, clean dish towels and a dish mop, dish-washing need not be so very unpleasant.

Katrina, comes again to-day. Miss Prudence saw her name in the M. G. R. book last week and thought that she had "given up coming any more," but we are all glad to find she still remembers us.

Dear Miss Prudence:—Will you let me in this November morning? I am getting cold standing out in the wind. You, perhaps, have forgotten all about me, for I have only written to the circle once, but have always been very much interested in reading the sisters' letters.

I am one of the order of school teachers, of whom there seem to be several in our circle. I am still very young in the profession.

I wish "Otach" would come and take my place in school for a few weeks, perhaps his or her mind would be changed about its being a prolonged holiday.

You have selected one of my favorite poems for our reading.

I think the whole poem is a lesson. I like best the description of "the village preacher." How much better the world would be if more of us were like him, forgiving and pitying those who have done wrong and are in trouble. We are all too unforgiving and unkind, the sooner we get over it the sooner there will be less sorrow in the world.

I have never met one of the "Merry-Go-Rounds," I do not believe there are any around here. I think there should be, as there are all other good things found in Illinois.

Miss Prudence, do you allow different members of the M. G. R.'s to correspond among themselves. If so I would like to correspond with some of the school-teachers. As we do not have much space in The Blade for our letters I think much may be gained by private correspondence, and we then could get better acquainted. I should like to meet a "real live" M. G. R. once. You may give my address to any one of them who would like to write to me.

How does it happen that Katrina has not read in our column many times that members of the M. G. R. can have addresses of other members sent them for private correspondence by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Miss Prudence asking for the address they wish?

It is not always that the gratification of our wishes makes us as happy as in the case of Earnest Western is, now that she has gained her heart's desire. Miss Prudence wishes all success for this girl of hers, who is so thoroughly impressed with the value of an education:

Busy! So busy I can scarcely take time to tell you who and what I am even at Miss Prudence's request, and you will have to decide that after all. Last year I ruled my little "school kingdom" with very great dignity (?) while all the summer, as I told you before, I was "chief cook" and housekeeper while mamma was gone, and now I am happier than any big Nebraska sunflower, for I am a student in our own state school, where I have longed to be, and have really begun to cut my "wisdom" teeth and learn to scribble in earnest.

New England Girl, your friendly handclasp, and the contents of your letter only added to the fraternal feeling. I, too, am keeping house and going to school, but my husband (?) is only one of the dearest girls in the world, so we each have our share in the housework. Does Mr. N. E. keep house?

I wish I could tell you, M. G. R.'s, more of our happy life here, of the busy, energetic students, many who have been or intend to be teachers, of the large commodious buildings, the fine, beautiful library and the many other pleasant things.

Very many of the students are paying their own way, and the years here are a result of careful saving and strict economy, but the delight of feeling that one's self is growing, expanding, becoming better fitted for the important and glorious work, is very great, and I wish all of our M. G. R. members could realize what a great privilege they are slighting when they do not take advantage of the higher institutions of learning in our land, but as that is another hobby of mine, even to gain the admiration of some of the bashful M. G. R. boys, I dare not sit down long enough to finish that subject.

Miss Take, the tobacco habit can only be overcome by training the young to see its harmful and very evil effects, but we as girls can use our influence, and refuse to accept the company of one who indulges. No company, did you say? Well, better none than worse than none, is my motto. Isn't Miss Prudence the dearest Chaperone to give us a picture of so popular a member as "Bonnie Burnie?" Give more, please.

Our "Hoosere Puer Poeta" is here with Christmas greetings, which are always welcome, especially such as those he gives us:

I will come again, dear M. G. R.'s, to be with you once more before the close of the old year and be on time for our Christmas entertainment. I wish you all a Merry Xmas and many happy returns of the day. As for gifts, will present all a token of "love," and best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity for all time to come.

What more, or better, can we give than a loving smile and kind word? Let us all resolve to, in the next year, fulfill our obligations to ourselves and to others; let us live our motto to a more perfect life.

Each life has its own action,
In some loved service doth the soul live on;
To craze from this is death.

I am now wearing my "badge" and show my colors. I have not been taken for a "silverite," as one M. G. R. was, but a friend seeing my badge, asked if I was one of the members of the "Ministers' Grand Reunion." Don't know why he mistook me for a young minister.

"Raven," welcome once more in our midst. You were right to come again and not to be offended by the passing pleasantries of members. You have the right ideal and true sentiments of a poet, are you one? I sometimes have a passing fancy of sometime being a poet. I have a poetic nature if I know what that is. Yet I sometimes think this way on my prospects:

This world knows nothing of its great men,
I say this to myself and am consoled.
To think that's why I'm far from mortal ken
On list of hidden geniuses enrolled.

We can only be as good would have us to be. Our work is predestined by our Creator, is this right, M. G. R.'s?

"Pop" does not come often, but always brings some good thought when she does come, and her letter this week is no exception to her general rule:

I am always so glad to welcome The Blade, especially the corner devoted to the M. G. R.'s.

White Ribbon, there is plenty of room by my side for you.

Hoosier Puer Poeta, I am an ex-T. S. N. C., student also; shake hands.

Raven, I am always glad to read your letters, they are a great help to me; you take Vivian's place in my heart.

Just one little thought. You have all heard that song. You in your little corner and I in mine. If we could only appreciate that the most important work in the world, for us, is right in our corner, and when we become discontented, and wish other associations, we shall remember God placed us where we could do the greatest good. Do not think I mean to be so contented as to make us idle but where we gain higher places, lift our comrades with us.

Lionne, speaks a word for the Housekeepers, and sends a question to be answered by the M. G. R's., as to the question she asks in her personal note. Miss Prudence, will, for answer, remind her that too much curiosity isn't good for young girls to indulge in:

Some one is glad there are so many teachers in the circle, because it will raise the standard, but I should like to know what those same teachers would do for something to eat and wear, if it were not for us poor housekeepers? Here is a question: Should a woman be ambitious for public life?

I know what I think about it, but want to hear the opinions of others. I am glad to see so many of the "old class of '96" on the stage again. Hope they will stay.

Carrie's letter was delayed on the way, but it is just as good, showing, as it does, what a dear girl she is:

I do hope I have started in time for the Thanksgiving dinner for I have a nice pumpkin pie I made myself for "Cow Boy," to reward him for his description of a "round-up;" also a basket of apples for Miss Prudence and a bunch of sour grapes for John Short.

How many, many, blessings we have to be thankful for, how good God has been to let us live in this beautiful land of ours, free from the terrors of war.

Dear M. G. R's, I wonder how many of us truly realize what we have to be thankful for and are just as grateful as we should be for the manifold blessings we receive?

Now as we gather round our festal board let us think of Vivian's last words to us:

"Let each one of us resolve to live so that the truth will not hurt us in the sight of man."

Let us look forward to the coming year with hopeful hearts, and try to do more good, in more ways, to more people, than we have in the past.

What a hopeful future Timothy has painted for us.

Otach, there was no need for you to tell us you had never taught school, I join with you in asking Vivian's cousin to tell us more of his life.

Merry-Go-Rounders, listen! The Blade has upon hand a number of the beautiful badges which were gotten up some time ago for your benefit. As they seem too expensive, the publishers have generously decided to cut the price of those which are left in two, that is, so long as they last, they will be sold for 25 cents each. Those who want them will need to order quickly, as there are not nearly enough to go around, and "first come, first served." Now is your chance to secure this lovely badge which speaks a word for the Household.

... OUR YOUNG FOLKS ...

A GOOD THING TO DO.

Hold it back, tie it down
Blind it fast and tight,
Set your lips together close—
Which will win the fight?

Let it go wild and free,
Running reckless riot?
Surely that will quickly be
An end of peace and quiet.

Strongest men of all you know
Find it hard to do,

If you try your very best,
Victory for you.

Try it hard. Bring to it
Firm determination,
If you rule it well and good,
You can rule a nation.

To all the heroes who have been
Tried and told and ruled,
Let us add the sturdy boy
Who can hold his tongue.

THE LITTLE MERMAID.

(Concluded.)

The day had now arrived when the eldest Princess had attained her fifteenth year, and was therefore allowed to rise up to the surface of the sea.

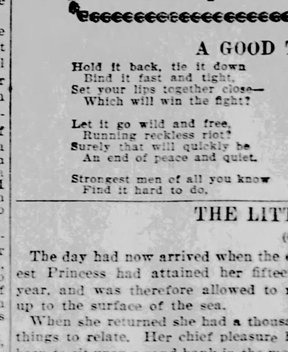
When she returned she had a thousand things to relate. Her chief pleasure had been to sit upon a sand-bank in the moonlight, looking at a large town which lay on the coast, where lights were beaming like stars, and where music was playing; she had heard the distant noise of men and carriages, she had seen the high church-towers, had listened to the ringing of the bells; and just because she could not go on shore, she longed the more after all these things.

How attentively did her youngest sister listen to her words! And when she next stood at night-time by her open window, gazing upward through the blue waters, her thoughts dwelt so eagerly upon the great city, full of life and sound, that she fancied she could hear the church-bells ringing.

Next year the second sister received permission to swim wherever she pleased. She rose to the surface of the sea just when the sun was setting; and this sight so delighted her that she declared it to be more beautiful than anything else she had seen above the waters.

"The whole sky seemed tinged with gold," said she; "and it is impossible for me to describe to you the beauty of the clouds. Now red, now violet, they glided over me; but still more swiftly flew over the water a flock of white swans, just where the sun was descending. I looked after them; but the sun disappeared, and the bright rosy light on the surface of the sea and on the edges of the clouds died away gradually."

It was now time for the third sister to visit the upper world. She was the boldest of the six, and ventured up a river,



LOOKING AT THE UPPER WORLD.

On its shores she saw green hills, covered with woods and vineyards, from among which arose houses and castles. She heard the birds singing; and the sun shone with so much power that she was continually obliged to plunge below, in order to cool her burning face. In a little bay she met with a number of children, who were bathing and jumping about; she would have joined in their gambols, but the children fled back to land in great terror, and a little black animal barked at her in such a manner, that she herself was frightened at last, and swam back to the sea. But never could she forget the green woods, the verdant hills, and the pretty children, who, although they had no fins, were swimming about in the river so fearlessly.

The fourth sister was not so bold; she remained in the open sea, and said, on her return home, she thought nothing could be more beautiful. She had seen ships sailing by, so far off that they looked like sea-gulls; she had watched the merry dolphins gambolling in the water, and the enormous whales sending up into the air a thousand sparkling fountains.

The year after, the fifth sister attained her fifteenth year—her birthday happened at a different season from that of her sisters; it was winter, the sea was of a green color, and immense icebergs were floating on its surface. These, she said, looked like pearls, although all were much larger than the church-towers in the land of human beings. She sat down upon one of these pearls, and let the wind play with her long hair; but then all the ships hoisted their sails in terror, and escaped as quickly as possible. In the evening the sky was covered with clouds; and whilst the great mountains of ice alternately sank and rose again, and beamed with a reddish glow, flashes of lightning burst forth from the clouds, and the thunder rolled on, peal after peal. The sails of all the ships were instantly furled, and horror and affright reigned on board; but the Princess sat still on the iceberg, looking unconcernedly at the blue zig-zag of the flashes.

Many an evening would the five sisters rise hand in hand from the depts of the ocean. Their voices were far sweeter than any human voice; and when a storm was coming on, they would swim in front of the ships and sing—oh, how sweetly did they sing!—describing the happiness of those who live at the bottom of the sea, and entreating the sailors not to be afraid, but to come down to them.

But the mariners did not understand their words—they fancied the song was only the whistling of the wind—and thus they met the hidden glories of the sea; for, if their ships were wrecked, all on board were drowned, and none but dead men ever entered the Mer-king's palace.

Whilst the sisters were swimming at evening time, the youngest would remain motionless and alone in her father's palace, looking up after them. She would have wept; but Mermaids can not weep, and therefore, when they are troubled, they suffer infinitely more than human beings do.

There were many things that she wished to hear explained, but her sisters could not give her any satisfactory answer; she was again obliged to have recourse to the old Queen-mother, who knew a great deal about the upper world, which she used to call "the country above the sea."

"Do men, when they are drowned, live forever?" she had one day asked, "do they not die as we do who live at the bottom of the sea?"

"Yes," was the grandmother's reply; "they must die like us, and their life is much shorter than ours. We live to the age of three hundred years; but when we die we become foam on the sea, and are not allowed even to share a grave among those that are dear to us. We have no immortal souls, we can never live again, and are like the green rushes which when once cut down are withered forever. Human beings, on the contrary, have souls that continue to live when their bodies become dust; and as we rise out of the water to admire the abode of man, even so the souls ascend to glorious unknown dwellings in the skies, which we are not permitted to see."

"Why have not we immortal souls?" asked the little Mermaid. "I would willingly give up my three hundred years to be a human being for only one day, thus to become entitled to that heavenly world above."

"You must not think of that," answered her grandmother; "it is much better as it is; we live longer and are far happier than human beings."

"So I must die, and be dashed like foam over the sea, never to rise again and hear the gentle murmur of the ocean, never again to see the beautiful flowers and the bright sun!—Tell me, dear grandmother, are there no means by which I may obtain an immortal soul?"

"No!" replied the old lady. "It is true that if thou couldst so win the affections of a human being as to become dearer to him than either father or mother, if he loved thee with all his heart, and promised, while the priest joined his hand with thine, to be always faithful to thee—then his soul would flow into thine, and thou wouldst become partaker of human bliss. But that can never be! What in our eyes is the most beautiful part of our body, the tail, the inhabitants of the earth think hideous; they cannot bear it. To appear handsome to them, the body must have two clumsy props, which they call legs."

The little Mermaid sighed, and looked mournfully at the scaly part of her form, otherwise so fair and delicate.

"We are happy," added the old lady, "we shall jump and swim about merrily for three hundred years; that is a long time, and afterwards we shall repose peacefully in death."

—From Anderson's Fairy Tales.

OUR WONDER COLUMN

1.—WHO WAS SHE?

She was a noted mezzo-soprano singer, born at Paris, March 24, 1808, her father being a Spanish singer and a teacher of singing, who tried to establish the Italian opera in New York, but failed to do so. She married a Frenchman of the latter city who was opposed to be a wealthy merchant, but who became bankrupt, and she went upon the stage, being received with great enthusiasm in France, England, Germany and Italy. Her first marriage having been dissolved, she married a famous violinist in 1836, but in September of that year she died at Manchester, whither she had gone to take part in a musical festival. She was a woman of noble heart and high intellect, and her conversation possessed an exquisite fascination. She left a number of musical compositions, some of which were deservedly popular.

FRANCES ALLEN.

2.—DISGUISED NOBLES.

1.—Earl Stitscrwt.
2.—Don Boyert.
3.—Don Lynternse.
4.—Senor Seatwain.
5.—Earl Will Scimawal.

MUDIE MAY.

3.—DIAMOND.

X
X X X
X X X X X
X X X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X
X

1.—In W. P. E.
2.—A domestic animal.
3.—A mark indicating omission.
4.—A part.
5.—Wild.
6.—28 pounds.
7.—In Arion.

B. VAN NORMAN.

4.—ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.

If the foot of a ladder standing perpendicularly against a building, be drawn back from the building 11 feet, the top of the ladder will be lowered 3 feet. What is the length of the ladder?

S. J. P.

5.—QUERY.

Who can tell us about the "Cap of Maintenance?"

THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

6.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:

"I would rather dwell in the dim fog of superstition than in the air rarified to nothing by the air pump of unbelief."

W. P. E.

**Answers to Puzz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Continued from Fifth Page.

fronted this government at various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward a larger enjoyment of liberty and self-control; of organized resistance to the mother country; of depression after distress and warfare, and of ineffectual settlement, to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental possessions of Spain in the Western hemisphere has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused concern in the United States.

(The message details the political history of Cuba from 1823 down to the present time. The present insurrection is described from its beginning, and the destructive nature of the warfare commented upon. "The civilized code of war has been disregarded, no less so by the Spaniards than by the Cubans," says the President. The document then goes on:)

Gen. Woodford's Instructions.

The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure for his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and to the Cuban people. These instructions recited the character and duration of the contest, the widespread losses it entails, the burdens and restraints it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests, and the injury resulting to an indefinite continuance of this state of things. It was urged that as a neighboring nation, with large interests in Cuba, we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother country to establish its authority and restore peace and order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate an indefinite period for the accomplishment of this result.

No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and indeed precise proposals were withheld, to avoid embarrassment to that government. All that was asked or expected was that some safe way might be speedily provided to end the war and restore peace.

The change in the Spanish ministry is then related, the reply of the Sagasta government, given in the news dispatches at the time, is summarized. The President energetically repels the implied charge, in Sagasta's reply, that we have failed in our international duty toward Spain, the message saying:)

Cost of Our Neutrality.

This charge is without any basis in fact. It could not have been made if Spain had been cognizant of the constant efforts this government has made at the cost of millions and by the employment of the administrative machinery of the nation at command to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel from our shores in violation of our laws would seem to be a sufficient answer.

But of this aspect of the Spanish note it is not necessary to speak further now. Firm in the conviction of a wholly performed obligation due response to this charge has been made to the diplomatic corps. Throughout the horrors and dangers to our own peace this government has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to itself the determination of its policy and course according to its own high sense of right and in accordance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own people should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

Of the untried measures there remain only: Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war, by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants; and, intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be nominal aggression.

Question of Belligerency.

Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has often been canvassed as a possible, if not inevitable step, both in regard to the previous ten years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unmindful that the two houses of Congress, in the spring of 1896, expressed the opinion by concurrent resolution that a condition of public war existed, requiring or justifying the recognition of the belligerency of Cuba; and that during the extra session the Senate voted a joint resolution of like import, which, however, was not brought to a vote in the House of Representatives.

In the presence of these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legislative branch it behooves the executive to soberly consider the conditions under which so important a measure must needs be taken. For this end is to seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses, beyond dispute, the attributes of statehood which alone can demand the recognition of belligerency in its favor. Possession, in fact, short of the essential qualifications of sovereignty by the insurgents and the conduct of the war by them according to the received code of war, are no less important factors toward the determination of the question of recognition than are the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal polity of the recognizing state.

(The President then quotes at length the opinion of President Grant, in his message of December 7, 1875, in which he gave his reasons why the United States should not recognize Cuban belligerency, and then takes the same position, as follows:)

Effects of Recognition.

Turning to the practical aspects of a recognition of belligerency and reviewing its inconveniences and positive dangers, still further pertinent considerations appear. In the code of nations there is no such thing as naked recognition of belligerency unaccompanied by the assumption of international neutrality. Such recognition, without more, will not confer upon either party to a domestic conflict a status not theretofore actually possessed nor affect the relation of either party to other states. The act of recognition usually takes the form of a solemn proclamation of neutrality which recites the de facto condition of belligerency as its motive. It announces a domestic law of neutrality in the declaring state. It assumes the international obligations of a neutral in the presence of a public state of war.

It warns all citizens and others within the jurisdiction of the proclaimant that they violate their recognized obligations at their peril, and cannot expect to be shielded from the consequences. The right of visit and search on the seas, and seizure of vessels and cargoes as contraband of war and good prizes under admiralty law must, under international law, be admitted as a legitimate consequence of a proclamation of belligerency. While according the equal belligerent rights defined by public law to each party, it supports, disfavors would be imposed on both, which, while nominally equal would weigh heavily in behalf of Spain herself. Possessing a navy, and controlling the ports of Cuba, her interdiction could be asserted, not only for the military investment of the island, but up to the margin of our own territorial waters; and a condition of things would exist for which the Cubans within their own domain could not hope to create a parallel, while its creation through aid or sympathy from within our domain would be even more impossible than now, with the additional obligations of international neutrality we would perforce assume.

The enforcement of this enlarged and onerous code of neutrality would only be influential within our own jurisdiction by land and sea, and applicable by our own instrumentalities. It could impart to the United States no jurisdiction between Spain and the insurgents. It would give the United States no right of intervention to enforce the conduct of the strife within the paramount authority of Spain, according to the international code of war.

It Would Be Unwise.

For these reasons, I regard the recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents as now unwise, and therefore inadmissible. Should that step hereafter be deemed wise in the sense of right and duty the executive will take it.

Intervention upon humanitarian grounds has been frequently suggested, and has not failed to receive my most anxious and careful consideration. But should a step be now taken when it is apparent that a hopeful change has supervened in the policy of Spain toward Cuba? A new government has taken office in the mother country. It is pledged in advance to the declaration that all the effort in the world can not suffice to maintain peace in Cuba by the bayonet; that vague promises of reform after subjugation afford no solution of the internal problem; that with a substitution of commanders must come a change of the past system of warfare for one in harmony with a new policy, which shall no longer aim to drive the Cubans to the horrible alternative of taking to the thicket or succumbing in misery; that reforms must be instituted in accordance with the needs and circumstances of the time, and that these reforms, while designed to give full autonomy to the colony, and to create a virtual entity and self-controlled administration, shall yet conserve and affirm the sovereignty of Spain by a just distribution of powers and burdens upon a basis of mutual interest, untainted by methods of selfish expediency.

The New Cuban Rule.

The first acts of the new government lie in these honorable paths. The policy of cruel rapine and extermination that so long shocked the universal sentiment of humanity has been reversed. Under the new military commander, a broad clemency is proffered. Measures have already been set on foot to relieve the horrors of starvation. The power of the Spanish armies, it is asserted, is to be used not to spread ruin and desolation, but to protect the resumption of peaceful agricultural pursuits and productive industries. That past methods are futile to force a peace by subjugation is freely admitted, and that future without conciliation must inevitably fail to win for Spain the fidelity of a contented dependency.

Decrees in application of the foreshadowed reforms have already been promulgated. The full text of these decrees has not been received, but as furnished in a telegraphic summary from our minister are: All civil and electoral rights of peninsular Spaniards are, in virtue of existing constitutional authority, forthwith extended to colonial Spaniards. A scheme of autonomy has been proclaimed by decree, to become effective upon ratification by the Cortes. It creates a Cuban parliament, which, with the insular executive, can consider and vote upon all subjects affecting local order and interests, possessing unlimited powers save as to matters of state, war and the navy, as to which the governor general acts by his own authority as the delegate of the central government. This parliament receives the oath of the governor general to preserve faithfully the liberties and privileges of the colony, and the insular secretaries are responsible. It has the right to propose to the central government, through the governor general, modifications of the national charter, and to invite new projects of law or executive measures in the interest of the colony.

Besides its local powers, it is competent, first, to regulate electoral registration and procedure and prescribe the qualifications of electors and the manner of exercising suffrage; second, to organize courts of justice, with native judges from members of the local bar; third, to frame the insular budget, basis as to expenditures and revenues, without limitation of any kind, and to set apart the revenues to meet the Cuban share of the national budget, which latter will be voted by the national Cortes, with the assistance of Cuban senators and deputies; fourth, to initiate or take part in the negotiations of the national government for commercial treaties which may affect Cuban interests; fifth, to accept or reject commercial treaties which the national government may have concluded without the participation of the Cuban government; sixth, to frame the colonial tariff, acting in accord with the peninsular government in scheduling articles of mutual commerce between the mother country and the colonies.

Before introducing or voting upon a bill, the Cuban government or the chambers will lay the project before the central government, and hear its opinion thereon, all the correspondence in such regard being made public. Finally, all conflicts of jurisdiction arising between the different municipal, provincial and insular assemblies, or between the latter and the insular executive power, and which from their nature can not be referable to the central government for decision, shall be submitted to the courts.

Spain Cannot Recede.

That the government of Sagasta has entered upon a course from which recession with honor or is possible can hardly be questioned; that in the few weeks it has existed it has made earnest of the sincerity of its professions, is undeniable. I shall not impugn its sincerity, nor should impatience be suffered to embarrass it in the task it has undertaken. It is honestly due to Spain, and to our friendly relations with Spain, that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations, and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things to which she stands solemnly committed.

She has recalled the commander whose brutal orders inflamed the American mind and shocked the civilized world. She has modified the horrible order of concentration, and has undertaken to care for the helpless and permit those who do live to resume the cultivation of their fields to do so, and assures them of the protection of the Spanish government in their lawful occupations. She has just released the Competitor prisoners, heretofore sentenced to death, who have been the subjects of repeated diplomatic correspondence during both this and the preceding administration.

Improved Conditions.

Not a single American citizen is now in arrest or confinement in Cuba of whom this government has any knowledge. The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain as well as equitable to all our interests, so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined in the line of indisputable right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy, in the light of the obligation this government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity.

Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about, by peaceful agencies, a peace which shall be honorable and enduring, if it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity, to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

President Recommends Speedy and Favorable Action on the Treaty.

By a special message dated the 16th day of June last, I laid before the Senate a treaty signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian islands as an integral part of the United States and under its sovereignty. The Senate having removed the injunction of secrecy, although the treaty is still pending before that body, the subject may be properly referred to in this message, because the necessary action of Congress is required to determine by legislation many details of the eventual union, should the fact of annexation be accomplished, as I believe it should be.

While consistently disavowing from a very early period any aggressive policy of absorption in regard to the Hawaiian group, a long series of declarations through three-quarters of a century has proclaimed the vital interest of the United States in the independent life of the islands, and their intimate commercial dependence upon this country. At the same time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the entity of Hawaiian statehood cease by the passage of the islands under the domination or influence of another power than the United States. Under these circumstances, the logic of events required that annexation, heretofore offered but declined, should, in the ripeness of time, come about as the natural result of the strengthening ties that bind us to those islands, and be realized by the free will of the Hawaiian state.

That treaty was unanimously ratified, without an amendment, by the Senate and President of the republic of Hawaii, on the 10th of September last, and only awaits the favorable action of the American Senate to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domain of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be, the political relation thereof to the United States, the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the inhabitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar conditions thereof, and the regulation, if need be, of the labor system therein, are all matters which the treaty has wisely relegated to the Congress.

Honor Demands Annexation.

If the treaty is confirmed as every consideration of dignity and honor requires, the wisdom of Congress will see to it that, avoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship, and having due regard to the geographical conditions, the most just provisions for self rule in local matters, with the largest political liberties as an integral part of our nation, will be accorded to the Hawaiians. No less is due to a people who, after nearly five years of demonstrated capacity to fulfill the obligations of self government, come of their free will to merge their destinies in our body politic.

The questions which have arisen between Japan and Hawaii by reason of the treatment of Japanese laborers emigrating to the islands under the Hawaiian-Japanese convention of 1888, are in a satisfactory stage of settlement by negotiation. This government has not been invited to mediate, and on the other hand has sought no intervention in that matter, further than to evince its kindliest disposition toward such a speedy and direct adjustment by the two sovereign states in interest as shall comport with equity and honor. It is gratifying to learn that the apprehensions at first displayed on the part of Japan lest the cessation of Hawaii's national life through annexation might impair privileges to which Japan honorably laid claim, have given place to confidence in the uprightness of this government, and in the sincerity of its purpose to deal with all possible ulterior questions in the broadest spirit of friendliness.

WOLCOTT'S COMMISSION.

International Bimetallism—France's Action is Encouraging.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1897, for the promotion of an international agreement respecting bimetallism, I appointed, on the 14th day of April, 1897, Hon. Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado; Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, and Hon. Charles J. Paine, of Massachusetts, as special envoys to represent the United States. They have been diligent in their efforts to secure the concurrence and cooperation of European countries in the international settlement of the question, but up to this time have not been able to secure an agreement contemplated by their mission.

The gratifying action of our great sister republic of France in joining this country in an attempt to bring an agreement among the principal commercial nations of Europe, whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assurance that we are not alone among the larger nations of the world in realizing the international character of the problem and in the desire of reaching some wise and practical solution of it. The British government has published a resume of the steps taken jointly by the French ambassador in London and the special envoys of the United States, with whom our ambassador at London actively cooperated in the presentation of this subject to Her Majesty's government. This will be laid before Congress. Our special envoys have not made their final report, as further negotiations between the representatives of this government and the governments of other countries have the subject in contemplation. They believe that doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the position of maintaining the stability of the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further negotiations.

GOVERNMENT OF ALASKA.

Rush of Gold Seekers Make Changes Imperative.

The territory of Alaska requires the prompt and early attention of Congress. The conditions now existing demand material changes in the laws relating to the territory. The great influx of population during the past summer and fall, and the prospect of a still larger immigration in the spring, will not permit us to longer neglect the extension of civil authority within the territory or postpone the establishment of a more thorough government.

(The message suggests a general system of land surveys for Alaska; asks for appropriations for two land officers; considers it necessary that a military force shall be sent there for the protection of persons and property, and urges Congress to remodel the government of the territory to suit the changed condition.)

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The New Republic Would Not Receive Our Minister.

As to the representation of this government to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, I have concluded that Mr. William L. Merry, confirmed as minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, and there temporarily establish the headquarters of the United States to those three states. I took this course for what I regarded as the paramount interests of this country. It was developed upon an investigation by the secretary of state that the government of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to receive Mr. Merry in his diplomatic quality, was unable to do so because of the compact concluded June 20, 1895, whereby that republic and those of Salvador and Honduras, forming what is known as the Greater Republic of Central America, had surrendered to the representative diet thereof their right to receive and send diplomatic agents. The diet was not willing to accept him because he was not accredited to that body. I could not accredit him to that body, because the appropriation law of Congress did not permit it. Mr. Baker, the present minister at Managua, has been directed to present his letters of recall.

Mr. W. Godfrey Hunter has likewise been accredited to the governments of Guatemala and Honduras, the same as his predecessor. Guatemala is not a member of the Greater Republic of Central America, but Honduras is. Should this latter government decline to receive him, he has been instructed to report this fact to his government and await its further instructions.

The Nicaraguan Canal.

A subject of large importance to our country and increasing appreciation on the part of the people, is the completion of the great highway of trade between the Atlantic and Pacific known as the Nicaraguan canal. Its utility and value to American commerce is universally admitted. The commission appointed under date of July 24 last "to continue the surveys and examinations authorized by the act approved March 2, 1895," in regard to "the proper route, feasibility and cost of construction of the Nicaragua canal, with a view of making complete plans for the entire work of construction of such canal," is now employed in the undertaking. In the future I shall take occasion to transmit to Congress the report of this commission, making at the same time such further suggestions as may then seem advisable.

RECIPROCITY TREATIES.

Will Have a Beneficial Effect On Our Foreign Commerce.

In order to execute as early as possible the provisions of the third and fourth sections of the revenue act approved July 24, 1897, I appointed the Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa, a special commissioner plenipotentiary to undertake the requisite negotiations with foreign countries desiring to avail themselves of these provisions. The negotiations are now proceeding with several governments, both European and American. It is believed that by a careful exercise of the powers conferred by that act, some grievances of our own and of other countries in our mutual trade relations may be either removed or largely alleviated, and that the volume of our commercial exchanges may be enlarged, with advantage to both contracting parties.

Rebuilding Our Merchant Marine.

Most desirable from every standpoint of national interest and patriotism is the effort to extend our foreign commerce. To this end our merchant marine should be improved and enlarged. We should do our full share of the carrying trade of the world. We do not do it now. We should be the laggard no longer. The inferiority of our merchant marine is justly humiliating to the national pride. The government by every proper constitutional means, should aid in making our ships familiar visitors at every commercial port of the world, thus opening up new and valuable markets to the surplus products of the farm and the factory.

Protecting the Fur Seals.

The efforts which had been made during the two previous years by my predecessor to secure better protection to the fur seals in the North Pacific ocean and Bering Sea, were renewed at an early date by this administration and have been pursued with earnestness. Upon my invitation the governments of Japan and Russia sent delegates to Washington, and an international conference was held during the months of October and November last, wherein it was unanimously agreed that under the existing regulations this species of useful animals was threatened with extinction, and that an international agreement of all the interested powers was necessary for their adequate protection.

The government of Great Britain did not see proper to be represented at this conference, but subsequently sent to Washington as delegates, the expert commissioners of Great Britain and Canada, who had during the past two years visited the Pribilof Islands, and who met in conference similar commissioners on the part of the United States. The result of this conference was an agreement on important facts connected with the condition of the seal herd, heretofore in dispute, which should place beyond controversy the duty of the governments concerned to adopt measures without delay for the preservation and restoration of the herd. Negotiations to this end are now in progress, the result of which I hope to be able to report to congress at an early day.

International Arbitration.

International arbitration can not be omitted from the list of subjects claiming our consideration. Events have only served to strengthen the general views on this question expressed in my inaugural address. The best sentiment of the civilized world is moving toward the settlement of differences between nations without resorting to the horrors of war. Treaties embodying these humane principles on broad lines without in any way imperiling our interests or our honor, shall have my constant encouragement.

Paris Exposition.

(This government accepted the invitation to participate in the Paris expedition of 1900, and appointed a special commissioner, who was well received, and secured more space than was originally allotted.)

THE NEW NAVY.

It Is Growing Rapidly and Needs Many Things.

The present immediately effective force of the navy consists of four battleships of the first class, two of the second, and 48 other vessels, ranging from armored cruisers to torpedo boats. There are under construction five battleships of the first class, sixteen torpedo boats and one submarine boat. No provision has yet been made for the armor of three of the five battleships, as it has been impossible to obtain it at the price fixed by Congress. It is of great importance that Congress provide this armor, as until then the ships are of no fighting value.

The present naval force, especially in view of its increase by the ships now under construction, while not as large as that of a few other powers, is a formidable force; its vessels are the very best of each type, and with the increase that should be made to it from time to time in the future, and careful attention to keeping it in a high state of efficiency and repair, it is well adapted to the necessities of the country.

(The President recommends the immediate construction of three or four dry docks for the navy on the Atlantic coast, one on the Pacific and one on the Gulf; ample provision for munitions of war, and an increase in the number of men; that one battleship be built on the Pacific coast, and that several more torpedo boats be authorized.)

INDIAN TERRITORY.

Abolition of Tribal Rights Advised by the President.

For a number of years past it has been apparent that the conditions under which the five civilized tribes were established in the Indian Territory, under treaty provisions with the United States, with the right of self-government and the exclusion of all white persons from within their borders, have undergone so complete a change as to render the continuance of the system thus inaugurated practically impossible. The total number of the five civilized tribes, as shown by the last census, is 45,494, and this number has not materially increased; while the white population is estimated at from 200,000 to 250,000, which, by permission of the Indian government, has settled in the territory. The present area of the Indian Territory contains 25,694,504 acres, much of which is very fertile land. The United States citizens residing in the territory, most of whom have gone there by invitation or with the consent of the tribal authorities, have made permanent homes for themselves. Numerous towns have been built, in which from 500 to 5,000 white people now reside. Valuable residences and business houses have been erected by many of them. Large business enterprises are carried on, in which vast sums of money are employed; and yet these people, who have invested their capital in the development of the productive forces of the country, are without title to the land they occupy, and have no voice whatever in the government, either of the nation or tribe. Thousands of their children who were born in the territory are of school age, but the doors of the schools of the nation are shut against them, and what education they get is by private contribution. No provision for the protection of the life or property of these white citizens is made by the tribal governments and courts.

(The efforts of the Dawes commission to get the Indians to accept lands in severalty, and to cede the remainder to the United States, are detailed. The result has been that two tribes have agreed, but the three other tribes have not. The President makes this recommendation:)

I concur with the secretary of the interior that there can be no cure for the evils engendered by the perversion of these great trusts excepting by their resumption by the government which created them.

Yellow Fever.

(Congress is advised to amend the quarantine laws so as to put the whole matter of quarantine into the hands of the Treasury department; and is asked to authorize the appointment by the President of a medical commission to make a systematic bacteriological investigation into the exact cause of the disease.)

PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Congress Asked to Consider the Coming Sale of the Kansas Pacific.

(The President details the sale of the Union Pacific and the postponement of the sale of the Kansas Pacific until December 1st, and says:)

The sale of this road was originally advertised for November 4, but, for the purpose of securing the utmost public notice of the event, it was postponed until December 16, and a second advertisement of the sale was made by the decree of the court. The upset price on the sale of the Kansas Pacific will yield to the government the sum of $2,509,000 over all prior liens, costs and charges. If no other or better bid is made this sum is all that the government will receive on its claim of nearly $13,000,000. The government has no information as to whether there will be other bidders or a better bid than the minimum amount herein stated.

Shall the Government Buy?

The question presented therefore is: Whether the government shall under the authority given it by the act of March 3, 1897, purchase or redeem the road in the event that a bid is not made by private parties covering the entire government claim. To qualify the government to bid at the sale will require a deposit of $900,000, as follows: In the government cause, $500,000, and in each of the first-mortgage causes, $200,000, and in the second cause $100,000, which must be in cash. Payment at the sale are as follows: Upon the acceptance of the bid a sum which with the amount already deposited shall equal 5 per cent of the bid; the balance in installments of 25 per cent, 30, 40 and 50 days after the confirmation of the sale. The lien on the Kansas Pacific prior to that of the government on July 20, 1897, principal and interest, amounted to $7,284,615.13. The government, therefore, should it become the highest bidder, will have to pay the amount of the first mortgage lien.

I believe that under the act of 1897 it has the authority to do this and in advance of any action by Congress I shall direct the secretary of the treasury to make the necessary deposit as required by the court's decree to qualify as a bidder and to bid at the sale a sum which will at least equal the amount of the debt due the government, but suggest in order to remove all controversy that an amendment of the law be passed explicitly giving such powers and appropriating in general terms whatever sum is sufficient therefor.

In so important a matter as the government becoming the possible owner of railroad property which it perforce must conduct and operate, I feel constrained to lay before Congress these facts for its consideration and action before the consummation of the sale. It is clear to my mind that the government should not permit the property to be sold at a price which will yield less than one-half of the principal of its debt and less than one-fifth of its entire debt, principal and interest. But whether the government, rather than accept less than its claim, shall become a bidder and thereby the owner of the property I submit to the Congress for action. The library building provided for by the act of Congress approved April 15, 1886, has for some time been in course of construction, and should be a matter of congratulation that through the foresight and munificence of Congress the nation possesses this noble treasure house of knowledge. It is earnestly to be hoped that having done so much towards the cause of education, Congress will continue to develop the library in every phase of research to the end that it may be not only one of the most magnificent, but among the most and most useful libraries in the world.

CIVIL SERVICE.

The President Stands Sturdily by the Merit System.

The important branch of our government known as the civil service, the practical improvement of which has long been a subject of earnest discussion, has of late years received increased legislative and executive approval. During the past four months the service has been placed upon a still firmer basis of business methods and personal merit. While the right of our veteran soldiers to reinstatement in deserving cases has been asserted, dismissals for merely political reasons have been carefully guarded against, the examinations for admittance to the service enlarged and at the same time rendered less technical and more practical; and a distinctive advance has been made by giving a hearing before dismissal upon all cases, where incompetency is charged, or demand made for the removal of officials in any of the departments. This order has been made to give to the accused his right to be heard, but without in any way impairing the power of removal, which should always be exercised in cases of inefficiency and incompetency, and which is one of the vital safeguards of the civil service reform system, preventing stagnation and deadwood and keeping every employe keenly alive to the fact that that security of his tenure depends not on favor, but on his own tested and carefully watched record of service.

Much, of course, still remains to be accomplished before the system can be made reasonably perfect for our needs. There are places now in the classified service which ought to be exempted and others not classified may properly be included. I shall not hesitate to exempt cases which I think have been improperly included in the classified service or include those which, in my judgment, will best promote the public service. The system has the approval of the people and it will be my endeavor to uphold and extend it.

Subjects Omitted.

I am forced by the length of this message to omit many important references to affairs of the government with which Congress will have to deal at the present session. They are fully discussed in the departmental reports, to all of which I invite your earnest attention.

The estimates of the expenses of the government by the several departments will, I am sure, have your careful scrutiny. While the Congress may not find it an easy task to reduce the expenses of the government, it should not encourage their increase. These expenses will, in my judgment, admit of a decrease in many branches of the government without injury to the public service. It is a commanding duty to keep the appropriations within the receipts of the government and thus avoid a deficit.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Executive Mansion, Dec. 6, 1897.

The Inner Experiences of a Cabinet Member's Wife

The actual social experiences of a prominent Cabinet member's wife. For this reason the authorship will be withheld. It is, without question, the most fascinating recital of politics, love, and the intrigues of high social and official life ever given publicity.

The first parts are in the CHRISTMAS

LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

ONE DOLLAR FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR

The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia

IN A WORKHOUSE.

Pitiful End of a Mother's Search for Her Lost Boy.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 3.—Mrs. Florence H. Frost, known to the police of all the large cities on account of her efforts to find her long lost son, was yesterday committed to the workhouse in this city. It is said she is a wreck physically and

MRS. FLORENCE H. FROST.

mentally, induced by her unsuccessful endeavor to locate the boy, in the search of whom she has spent many thousands of dollars.

Mrs. Frost is the divorced wife of Raymond Frost, at one time a wealthy manufacturer at Bayonne, N. J. They separated about five years ago, and, not wishing to air her domestic troubles in court, Mrs. Frost gave her husband the custody of their son. If the boy is now alive he is about 10 years old.

Mrs. Frost's family was one of the most prominent in Delaware. Her father was William Sinclair McCauley, for whom the boy was named. Mr. McCauley was at one time adjutant general of the state. Her mother was a near relative to General George B. McClellan.

Having ample means of her own at that time, Mrs. Frost went to Europe after the separation from her husband. She traveled extensively and tried to forget the past, but the love for her boy brought her back to America in the summer of 1895. She then learned for the first time that Mr. Frost had secured a divorce in Chicago and had given the boy to a relative living in that city. She came to Chicago and learned through the aid of the police that the man who had the custody of the boy had gone to Canada.

Mrs. Frost advertised for the boy in all the leading newspapers of the country, offering a large reward of money for information regarding him. She had reason to think the boy was in Chicago, notwithstanding the story of his being taken to Canada, and she remained there from January until September, 1896.

She hunted the city high and low, and employed detectives to aid her in the search. She went to the parks, the base ball grounds, took lake excursions—in fact, wherever she thought her boy would be apt to be she sought for him, but in vain. During her stay there she was a guest at the Auditorium.

It was noticed before she left Chicago that her mind was unbalanced. She was heard of later in St. Louis, where she was arrested for some disorderly act, the result of a deranged mind.

LITTLE GIRL A LIAR.

Obtained $1,400 From Her Father by Huge Falsehoods.

Obtained $1,400 From Her Father by

New York, Dec. 4.—Gertrude Tureeck, a precocious child of 14 years, has, since May last, sustained and carried out a most preposterous deception which would make Ananias stand and wonder. At one bound she has seized the world's prevarication record for all ages. The child succeeded, between last May and Thanksgiving day, in securing from her father, Ferdinand Tureeck, $1,400 all of his savings, by saying that the money was for President McKinley.

For six months the girl had been obtaining amounts ranging from $10 to $100 on the plea that she was lending the money to President McKinley, who, she said, was staying at the Windsor Hotel and was temporarily short of funds.

The Tureeck girl came home from school one day last spring and told her mother that Mrs. McKinley had visited the school that day and had taken a great fancy to her. She said that the teacher had asked her to play the piano and recite for the President's wife, and that Mrs. McKinley had been so impressed with her talent that she had asked the girl to call on her at the Windsor.

The mother and father of the child believed her story unquestionably. Mrs. Tureeck bought her a new dress for the occasion, and her father helped her to select the music. The child returned from the supposed visit and gave a faithful description of what had occurred, and triumphantly announced that Mrs. McKinley was going to adopt her and would attend to the completion of her musical studies.

Later she told her father President McKinley was pressed for ready money, as he didn't want to use checks, and her father gave her $100 to loan him. From time to time, with similar stories, she secured money from her father in the same way until all of his savings were gone.

The girl was lavish with her money, and gave presents to all her friends, but most of the things she brought home, saying President McKinley had sent them. Among the child's purchases were a magic lantern, a silver watch, coats, gloves, shoes, a canary bird, two black and tan pups, a pair of diamond earrings, a bicycle and a tricycle.

She bought expensive flowers in quantities. A good deal of the $1,400 went for carriage rides, theatre tickets and candy.

The Tureeck girl's parents were extravagantly infatuated with their child, and are people of little worldly knowledge.

This Tells Where Health May Be Found.

And that is more important than making money. If your blood is impure, Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicine for you. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, rheumatism, catarrh and all other diseases originating in or prompted by impure blood and low state of the system.

HOOD'S PILLS are easy to take, easy to operate. Cure indigestion, headache.

PROSPERITY'S PROOFS.

Kansas to Send Carload of Canceled Mortgages to Omaha Exposition.

Topeka, Kas., Dec. 3.—Charles Harris, a member of the legislature, is working up a scheme to collect and take to the Omaha exposition a car load of canceled Kansas mortgages to prove to the world that prosperity is making its headquarters in Kansas.

Advance in Wages.

Sharon, Pa., Dec. 3.—Seven hundred blast furnace employes at Sharon and Sharpsville have been given an unsolicited advance in wages of 10 and 20 per cent. Every furnace in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys, it is claimed, has advanced wages.

Daniels to Succeed Himself.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 4.—The Democratic legislative caucus last night nominated Hon. John Daniels to succeed himself in the United States Senate.

Earthquake in Kansas.

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 2.—A slight earthquake shock startled the citizens of Wichita at 12:53 this morning.

TEN WEEKS FOR 10 CENTS!

Strange as it may appear, that big family paper, the ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY SENTINEL, of Denver, Colorado, (founded 1859) will be sent ten weeks on trial for 10c; clubs of six 50c; all for $1. Special offer solely to introduce the paper. Gold mines set with Rocky mountain gems are given free as premiums. Latest mining news and illustrations of grand scenery each week, also true stories of love and adventure. Address as above and mention THE BLADE. Write to-day; postage stamps taken.

IS IT A TRIFLE?

THAT COMMON TROUBLE ACID DYSPEPSIA, OR SOUR STOMACH.

Now Recognized as a Cause of Serious Disease.

Acid dyspepsia, commonly called heartburn or sour stomach, is a form of indigestion resulting from fermentation of the food. The stomach being too weak to promptly digest it, the food remains until fermentation begins, filling the stomach with gas, and a bitter, sour, burning taste in the mouth is often present. This condition soon becomes chronic, and being an every-day occurrence, is given but little attention. Because dyspepsia is not immediately fatal, many people do nothing for the trouble.

Within a recent period a remedy has been discovered prepared solely to cure dyspepsia and stomach troubles. It is known as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and is now becoming rapidly used and prescribed as a radical cure for every form of dyspepsia.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets have been placed before the public and are sold by druggists everywhere at 50 cents per package. It is prepared by the Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich., and while it promptly and effectually relieves a vigorous digestion is the result, and when perfectly harmless and will not injure the most delicate stomach, but on the contrary by giving perfect digestion strengthens the stomach, improves the appetite, and makes life worth living.

Send for free book on Stomach Diseases by addressing Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

FOREIGN NEWS.

HAYTI MAKES AN APOLOGY.

Very Humble Before the Guns of Germany.

Port Au Prince, Hayti, Dec. 7.—It is understood that the question of the indemnity demanded by Germany, for the alleged arrest and imprisonment of Herr Emil Lueders, a German subject, has been settled to the satisfaction of Germany, and that all the demands of that country have been agreed to by the government of Hayti, in face of the display of force made by Germany and under the threat of a bombardment of the defensive works of the port unless these demands were agreed to within the eight hours following the time the German ul-

PRESIDENT SAM, OF HAYTI.

timatum was delivered yesterday morning shortly after the arrival at this port of the two German cruisers sent to back up the demands of the German minister here, Count Schwerin.

The first part of the settlement took place at 6 o'clock last night when the Haytien fleet formally saluted the German flag from the flagship of the fleet of Hayti, the Crete-a-Pierrot, a small vessel of 940 tons, armed with a few guns of light calibre.

Admiral Killick, the Haytien commander, had charge of the formal salute of the German flag. While the flag of the republic was being dipped on board the Crete-a-Pierrot to the standard of Germany, the band of the Haytien navy played the German national anthem and the Haytien flagship fired 21 guns which were answered from the German flagship, the Charlotte, which is used as a schoolship.

The second part of the settlement of the trouble between Germany and Hayti will take place this morning, when Count Von Schwerin, the German minister to Hayti, will be formally and solemnly received by the Haytien officials. The latter, it is understood, have assured the German authorities that summary justice will be promptly meted out to three of the officials of Hayti, who caused the estrangement between the republic and Germany.

NEW HORROR IN CUBA.

Bubonic Plague Appears Among Concentrados in Pinar Del Rio.

Havana via Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 7.—I can announce positively that the bubonic plague has appeared among the concentrados in Pinar del Rio and Sancti Spiritus districts. This is admitted by the Spaniards, who, however, describe the horrible malady as beriberi. Children and the aged are attacked.

I have just returned from a trip through the Western provinces, and in every town I visited cases of beriberi were observed, especially at Artemesa, Mangas and Cuira Melena.

No description can exaggerate the dreadful condition under which the country people, driven from their farms to the towns, are living. Villages that contained several hundred inhabitants in peace time suddenly had twice or thrice as many women and children, utterly without means, added to their population.

CUBAN ELECTION.

Official Notice of the New Government of Insurgents.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Consul General Lee has informed the state department that the insurgents in Cuba elected and installed at Yaza Porto Principe on October 20th the following officers:

President, Bartolo Masso; vice president, Domingo Mendez Capote; secretary of war, Jose B. Aleman; secretary of the treasury, Earnisto Font Stearling; secretary of foreign affairs, Andres Moreno de La Torre; secretary of the interior, Manuel R. Silva; general in chief, Maximo Gomez; lieutenant general, Calixto Garcia.

PROBABLY THE CZAR

Will Have Something to Say on German Occupation in China.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 3.—Great reticence is observed in official circles here regarding the political situation in the far east, but the opinion prevails that Germany will not permanently occupy Kiao Chou bay, on the Shan Tung penin

WASHINGTON.

EXPENSES NEXT YEAR.

Secretary Gage Turns in an Estimate for $462,267,885.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Secretary Gage to-day transmitted to Congress the estimates of the appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, as furnished by the several executive departments. The total amount called for by the estimates is $462,647,885, which is about $22,000,000 in excess of the appropriations for 1898, including deficiencies and miscellaneous and about $41,000,000 more than the estimates for 1898. The recapitulation by titles is as follows, cents omitted: Estimates for 1899:

Legislative establishment, $4,465,532; executive establishment, $20,025,484; judicial establishment, $687,629; foreign intercourse, $1,850,428; military establishment, $24,620,043; naval establishment, $29,023,539; Indian affairs, $7,375,617; pensions, $141,257,750; public works, $73,364,134; postal service, $6,048,112; miscellaneous, $35,187,402; permanent appropriations, $117,836,200. Grand total, $462,647,885.

These amounts include estimates for rivers and harbors, $48,728,160, and for fortifications and other works of defense, $13,378,571, the details of which already have been published.

The secretary of war asks for an increase over the present appropriation of army and supplies of $100,000 (this increase is made necessary by the sales of the Union Pacific railway. The total increase asked on behalf of the military establishment is nearly $1,100,000. The total asked for the support of the navy proper is $20,131,113 or about $4,000,000 in excess of the present appropriations and for the increase of the navy the increase is about $5,400,000.

For the Ninth district, Lake Michigan: $75,000 for a harbor light and fog signal station at Toledo, O.; $25,000 for a light on Chapman Shoal, St. Lawrence River; $85,000 for a tender for the Tenth district; $20,000 for a light and fog signal station at Lake St. Clair, Michigan; on Middle Island, Lake Huron, $28,000; on Crisp's Point, Lake Superior, $18,000; also one on the Rock of Ages, Lake Superior, $50,000, and $20,000 for a moving light from Eagle River to Sand Hills, Michigan; also a light on Point Arguillo, Cal., $35,000; on Point Buchan, Cal., $33,000; a relief vessel for the Twelfth and Thirteenth Pacific coast districts, $80,000; also a light on Semiahmoo Bay, Puget Sound, $25,000; total sum asked for lighthouses, beacons, etc., is $2,208,310. The whole amount of the river and harbor estimates is $48,728,160, as against $19,516,412, the present appropriation.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

Statistics and Recommendations in the Commissioner's Report.

Washington, Dec. 4.—In his annual report, Mr. Forman, commissioner of internal revenue estimates that receipts from all sources for the current fiscal year will aggregate at least $155,000,000, an increase over 1896 of about $1,800,000. Comparative statement of receipts during the last fiscal year is given as follows:

Spirits $82,008,542, increase over 1896 $1,338,472.

Tobacco $30,710,297, decrease $1,331.

Fermented liquors $32,472,162, decrease $1,312,073.

Oleomargarine $1,034,129, decrease $185,302.

Filled cheese $18,992, increase $18,992.

Banks and bankers $85, decrease $49.

Miscellaneous $45,383, decrease $39,429.

The cost of the collection of the revenue during the last fiscal year was $3,848,469.

During the year 2,241 illicit stills were destroyed, and 32 were removed, 829 persons were arrested, one killed and three were wounded.

The commissioner recommends that the expense of storing spirits in general bonded warehouses be borne by the owners of the spirits, such charge to be levied by means of a stamp tax. This, he says, would greatly lessen the objection to the use of the warehouse for any class of spirits.

DECEMBER STATEMENT.

Showing Condition of the Public Debt and Government Finances.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The December statement of the public debt shows that, at the close of business November 30, 1897, the public debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to $1,009,226,466, a decrease since October 30, of $11,353,125. This decrease is accounted for by an increase in the cash due to the deposit of an instalment of the proceeds of the sale of the government's interest in the Union Pacific. But for this transaction the cash in the treasury would have been $771,450 less than last month. The debt is recapitulated as follows:

Interest-bearing debt, $847,365,620; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, $1,331,280; debt bearing no interest, $381,183,125; total, $1,229,880,025.

This amount, however, does not include $579,920,933 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury.

The cash in the treasury is classified as follows:

Gold, $194,089,260; silver, $507,656,382; paper, $105,156,181; bonds, disbursing officers' balances, etc., $38,907,251. Total, $846,409,076, against which there are demand liabilities amounting to $625,745,516, leaving the net cash balance, $220,663,559.

Receipts and Expenditures.

The comparative statement of government receipts and expenditures show receipts for November, 1897, were $45,363,605, of which $18,194,618 was received from the reorganization committee of the Union Pacific railway. The ordinary receipts for the month, $25,168,957. Total expenditures for November were $37,810,837, of which $4,549,368 was cash in the Union Pacific sinking fund turned into the treasury and repaid to the appropriation from which it had been originally drawn for investment. Hence the month's disbursements include this sum, leaving a deficit of $8,092,483.

The receipts from customs were $9,830,025, a falling off of about $100,000 as compared with November, 1896. The receipts from internal revenue were $13,530,649, a gain of about $430,000 for the month.

The excess of expenditures over receipts for the five months of the present fiscal year, independent of proceeds of the sale of the Union Pacific railway was $46,101,494.

The government has received as payment $8,100,000 on account of the Union Pacific sale, which leaves due from the committee $34,153,005, to be paid in four equal instalments, the last on January 6, 1898.

JUSTICE FIELD RETIRED.

Leaves the Supreme Bench After Thirty-Four Years' Service.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—Justice Stephen F. Field of the United States supreme court to-day surrenders the commission which he received from Abraham Lincoln, lays aside his black gown of office and retires to private life. For thirty-four years and seven months the venerable Californian has been a member of the highest judicial tribunal of the land, while for nearly six years before being elevated to this position he set upon the supreme bench of the courts of his native state. The voluntary resignation of the justice was sent to the President two months since and accepted by the chief executive with regret, an agreement being made that it should not go into effect until to-day.

Former Justice Field is now 81 years of age, and has been eligible for retirement since November of 1886. He was anxious, however, to exceed the longest term of service on the supreme bench in the history of the court—that of Chief Justice Marshall who served thirty-four years, five months and six days. Efforts were made by his friends to induce him to retire two years ago, but he was opposed to giving President Cleveland an opportunity to appoint a Democrat to the bench to succeed him. Under the law Former Justice Field will receive the full salary of an associate justice for the remainder of his life. This is $10,000 a year.

There has been any amount of speculation concerning his successor, in the best-informed circles fixing upon Attorney General McKenna as the lucky man. In this event the Californian may be called to the cabinet, although the prophets have had it that Assistant Secretary of State Judge Day would become attorney general. Within the last few days, however, it has become known that Judge Day so far from seeking further honors at Washington, was anxious to return to his home at Canton, where he has a law practice variously stated as worth from $30,000 to $50,000 a year.

RUSSIA ADOPTS GOLD.

Not One First-Class Nation Remains on a Silver Basis.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Now that Russia has attained the gold standard, not one first-class nation remains on a silver basis. Therefore the achievement of Russia's monetary ambition, which is announced in the cable dispatches marks an epoch in the history of the world.

At last Russia is able to hold up her head and say she is on a level with the greatest and highest. For years has the czar's government been preparing for this event. It was long ago perceived by the ablest statemen and economists of Russia that as fast as they could do so the nations of the earth were rising superior to the more primitive conditions which had surrounded them in their monetary affairs, and were seeking place with the highest form of development in the science of money and stability, as represented in Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States. It was perceived that even the smaller nations, those with scanty resources, sought to attain this dignity and in harmony with the dominating fiscal conditions of the world as soon as they could command the necessary strength.

From a military standpoint the Russians say they were at a disadvantage as long as they remained on a silver or paper basis. Their credit could never be first-class, and the interest rates which they were compelled to pay would be higher. From the commercial standpoint the economists also saw the necessity of abandoning that basis which produced a fluctuating exchange and of getting upon the rock of gold.

IMPORTANT PENSION DECISION.

Policy Laid Down in Rejecting an Illinois Widow's Claim.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior Davis has made a decision in a dependent widow's case which, while in line with some former decisions on this subject, is of special importance as emphasizing a policy affecting a large class of claimants.

Many widows are applying for pensions who already have large property interests and consequently large incomes. The case in which the present ruling is made is that of Louise Wiemersiarge, widow of an Illinois volunteer veteran. She owns fifty-one acres twelve miles out of Chicago, valued at $150 an acre; the house in which she lives is worth $6,000 clear, and the only dependent is a daughter capable of self-support.

The case, accordingly, is rejected on the ground that she is not dependent on daily labor.

GOV. GRIGGS.

New Jersey's Governor Will Be the Attorney General.

Washington, Dec. 6.—It was officially announced at the White House upon the return of the President to Washington that Governor Griggs, of New Jersey, had been tendered and has accepted the office of attorney general of the United States which will be vacated by the nomination of Attorney General McKinna to be associate justice of the supreme court. It is probable that Governor Griggs will not sever his office before the beginning of the new year.

Governor John William Griggs was born in Newton, N. J., July 10, 1849. He was graduated from LaFayette College in 1868 and became a law student in the office of Hon. Robert Hamilton at Newton. In 1871 he removed to Paterson where he began practicing law. In 1882 he was elected to the state senate and again elected in 1886, becoming president of that body. He was delegate at large to the Republican national convention in 1888. In 1895, Governor Werts, of New Jersey offered Mr. Griggs a place on the supreme court bench of that state which Mr. Griggs declined to accept. The next year he was elected governor of New Jersey.

POSTMASTERS.

Long List That Will Go Before the Senate for Confirmation.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The Senate will have the appointments of about 738 presidential postmasters on its hands for confirmation during the present month. All but one hundred of these have been made by the President since the close of the extraordinary session of Congress. The postmaster at Detroit is among them. Of the remaining one hundred cases forty are ready to be sent by the President to the Senate at the opening of Congress and sixty others are expected during the month.

BLANCHE K. BRUCE

Appointed Register of the Treasury by the President.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The President to-day appointed Blanche K. Bruce, of Mississippi, to be register of the Treasury. Mr. Bruce represented Mississippi in the United States Senate in reconstruction days, and is one of the best known negro Republicans in the country. The position to which he is appointed is one he held some years ago.

MISS BRADLEY

Formally Invited by Secretary Long to Christen a Battleship.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Secretary Long to-day addressed a letter to Miss Christine Bradley asking her to give him the honor to christen the battleship Kentucky; this action was taken with the consent of Governor Bradley.

Peru Wants Reciprocity.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Peru is the first of the South American countries to open negotiations with the United States for reciprocity treaty under the provisions of the Dingley law. The negotiations were begun through the Peruvian minister here.

Congressional Contests.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The clerk of the house of representatives received notices of 20 contests to be made in the next house. The contests are principally in the southern districts.

The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third further than any other brand.

ROYAL

ROYAL KING POWDER

BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

MOTHER M'KINLEY DYING.

She Suffered a Stroke of Paralysis on Thursday.

Canton, O., Dec. 2.—Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley, mother of the President, was stricken with paralysis this morning, and it is feared that her death is only a question of a short time. The paralysis at present is of but a mild form, but owing to her extreme age, nearly 89 years, Dr. Phillips, the attending physician, can give but little hope to the family.

Mother McKinley for some time has not been in real good health, having suffered from a mild form of grippe with which she had been afflicted and she was able to be up and about the house. Wednesday she seemed to have materially improved and her bright and cheerful humor was especially noted by the members of the household. Mr. Abner McKinley remarked that he had not seen her in such apparent good spirits for years.

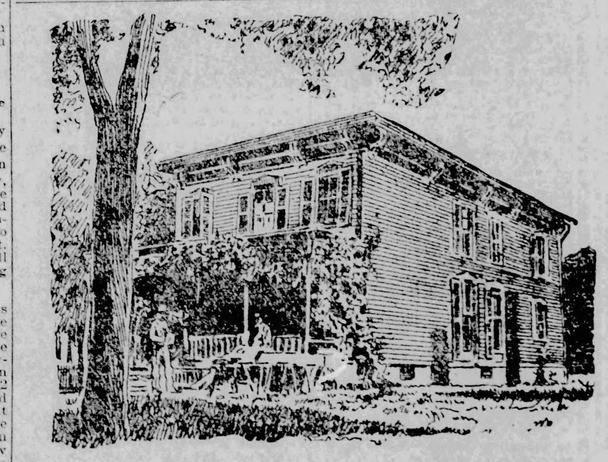
She retired as usual Wednesday night, occupying a room adjoining that of her daughter, Helen. About the hour the family usually arises this morning, Mother McKinley walked to Miss Helen McKinley's room and awakened her. The latter addressed her mother, and receiving no answer surmised that something was wrong, immediately dressed and summoned the household and a physician.

Canton, O., Dec. 7.—At 8 o'clock this morning, Mrs. McKinley was in that same calm repose that has been hers most of the time since her first attack of paralysis.

Once more the children of Nancy Allison McKinley have gathered about her couch made sacred by her tenacious struggle against death. The reunion is complete. The President arrived before the death angel made his visit and took with him the spirit of his aged mother. With the children were other relatives, among whom was the aged sister of Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Abigail Osborne, mother of Consul W. M. Osborne.

The scene was a pathetic one. In the midst of it all there was a joy unspeakable in the breast of the President. He had again been permitted to see his mother alive. He had answered all the obligations of his country. He had fulfilled his vows to his people. He had witnessed the assembling of Congress and had been cheered with the news at the same time that his mother was better.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S MOTHER.



MOTHER M'KINLEY'S HOME AT CANTON.

In that little upper room at the McKinley homestead this morning there was a scene that is almost too sacred for pen to write. The eyes of all present were filled with tears as they witnessed the remarkable and almost miraculous rally of the President's mother from the unconscious state into which she had fallen early this morning.

As her famous son entered the room, accompanied by his wife and his niece, Miss Mabel McKinley, the sister of the President, Miss Helen said: "Mother, here are William and Ida." He kneeled by her bedside, he kissed her tenderly, reverently, and as he did so she put her arm about his neck and signified that she knew him. She also recognized the President's wife, and reached her hand forward her, and knew Miss Mabel McKinley and Jack Duncan.

It seemed to friends that she had somehow or other been waiting for the arrival of her son. Soon after, she lapsed into an unconscious state and the strength that had been husbanded for the last meeting of son and mother seemed to leave her.

Dr. Phillips, who was present at the time of the President's arrival and the recognition, said afterwards, in commenting upon this, that there also was much remarkable. He said he had never known such a recognition to occur in a case like Mother McKinley's, where the patient was as advanced in years. It is plain to the President, however, that his mother's pulse is weaker, and that despite the rallies she has had, she has been failing since he left her.

Dr. Phillips left Mrs. McKinley at 1 o'clock. She was then entirely unconscious and resting quietly. She has taken no nourishment for 24 hours. The doctor believes the patient is steadily though slowly growing weaker, but can make no prediction as to the hour of final dissolution.

A MONEY MAKER, A HOME

THE EDISON GRAPHOPHONE TALKING MACHINES DOWN TO $10.00. All the latest Music, Songs, Speech, Negro Sermons, etc. Complete Outfits, consisting of Machine with automatic stop, Mother Tubes, Concert Horn, 12 Records of Minstrel Songs, Band Selections, Sketches, Sacred Songs, Sweet Solos, Side Splitting Jokes, Admission Tickets, etc., for $15.25. An opportunity to make big money easy by public entertainments. Just the thing for church and Sunday school entertainments. Anyone can operate them. Send for free Catalogue of Graphophones, Records, etc. Or by sending ONE DOLLAR we will send the outfit by express C.O.D. subject to examination (balance payable when received. If satisfactory you pay express charges and it is yours. Write to-day. SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL. (Largest Mail Order House in the World.)

INDEPENDENCE HALL.

Famous Old Structure is Being Restored to Condition of Old Days.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 3.—There is great disappointment among visitors to this city from a distance and from foreign points over their inability to get an inside view of famous old Independence Hall. The structure is just now being restored and a big board fence keeps would-be visitors at a distance. Until the completion of the public buildings the city and county officials occupied offices in the wings of the historic structure, but these wings are now being demolished and it is intended to restore the hall to precisely the condition is was in during the days that witnessed the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence. Extraordinary precautions have been taken to preserve every stick and stone identified with the structure, and although the place is besieged by relic hunters, not a single one has so far succeeded in carrying off a souvenir.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

Governor Tanner Issues Proclamation for Special Session.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 4.—Gov. Tanner late yesterday afternoon issued a proclamation calling a special session of the general assembly to meet in this city at 12 o'clock December 18, 1897. The session is called to consider the following subjects:

First—To amend the laws for the assessment of property for taxation.

Second—To enact or amend laws in relation to holding and conducting primary elections.

Third—To apportion the state into senatorial districts.

Fourth—An act to establish police boards providing for non-partisan police in all cities over 100,000 inhabitants.

Fifth—To appropriate $60,000 to the maintenance fund for the soldiers' and sailors' home at Quincy.

Owing to the fact that by a mistake in engrossing the appropriation bill at the last session of the legislature, only $152,000 was appropriated for the soldiers' and sailors' home, when $182,000 was the appropriation agreed upon by the conference committee of the two houses. In order to remedy this mistake, and to admit some 350 applicants whose applications for admission to the home are now on file there, the additional appropriation of $30,000 is asked for.

Sixth—An appropriation of a reasonable sum to defray the expense of testing the constitutionality of the inheritance tax law and its enforcement.

—Catarrh, like scrofula, is a disease of the blood, and may be cured by purifying the blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

THORN CONVICTED.

Mrs.' Nack is to Plead Guilty of Manslaughter.

New York, Dec. 1.—Martin Thorn, who last evening heard the verdict of the jury which will send him to the electric chair to expiate the murder of William Guldensuppe, passed a quiet night in his cell at the Queens county jail.

When Sheriff Doht went in to see Thorn this morning the condemned prisoner said he had no appetite for breakfast, but he felt that a big load was off his mind. Thorn did not talk as if he had an hope of getting a new trial. He supposed, he said, he would have to make up his mind to meet the worst.

It is understood Mrs. Nack will be arraigned in court next week when her counsel Emanuel Friend will in her behalf enter a plea of guilty of manslaughter in the first degree, and that the district attorney will accept the plea. In doing this Mr. Youngs would be recognizing Mrs. Nack's action in turning states evidence at the first trial. Mrs. Nack may be sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

WILLIMANTIC THREAD.

English Capitalists Negotiating for Big Connecticut Plant.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 3.—A cable dispatch from England indicates that the sale of the large Willimantic thread works at Willimantic, Conn., probably to foreign parties, will soon be consummated.

The thread company has $2,000,000 capital and employs several thousand hands.

An option on its entire stock at $31.25 for each share of $25 par, expires on Dec. 15.

RUSSEL SAGE.

Remarkable Plan Credited to the Millionaire.

New York, Dec. 6.—For days a persistent rumor has circulated in legal circles that Russell Sage, the multi-millionaire, was planning a charity beside which the late Baron Hirsch's gifts would pale into insignificance.

Sage, the report has it, intends to give away to charity $50,000,000.

Of course, the town is astounded. Sage as a benefactor and philanthropist, thinks of it! But it is said the will has been made, signed, sealed and safely stored away in a strong box.

Right here comes another peculiar thing. Sage realizes that when such a will becomes known it will cause a tremendous stir.

Now, being determined to prevent the possibilities of any legal quibbles frustrating his desires, he has decided that all gifts to kith and kin are to be accepted before his demise and acknowledged in cast-iron terms, legal and binding, which will relate that they expect and agree not to attempt to obtain hereafter any additional money that at present belongs to the testator.

Among the bequests Sage makes in this remarkable will are the following: Each and every public square is to have a statue commemorating the early history and folklore of the commonwealth.

One million dollars is set apart for scholarships in Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Wellesley, Radcliffe and Vassar. The income of $400,000 is to be set apart for the support of American art students in Greece and Italy.

The new public library at Forty-second street gets the income of $750,000 for the free distribution of books. Life's Fresh Air fund gets his home at Quogue and 1,610 acres of land in New Jersey.

A further sum of $2,500,000 is set aside for a manual training school.

Finally this strange and seemingly much misunderstood man plans to give Madison Square Garden to the people. There a gorgeous people's palace is to be built, the most gorgeous structure the world ever saw.

Mr. Sage, in telling of his idea, said: "I wish it to be a forum and picnic ground."

It is understood Mrs. Sage, who has long been engaged in charitable work, has had much to do with such a disposition of her husband's princely fortune.

JOHNNY BRADY.

From the Slums of New York to Governor of Alaska.

New York, Dec. 6.—The case of John Green Brady, now governor of Alaska, is the most interesting among those of the 70,000 boys and girls who have been removed from the slums and debasing surroundings of lower New York. From the narrow thoroughfare called Roosevelt street where the two halves are so close to each other that two teams may barely pass, to the great snow-breadths and white-capped Alaskan mountains is many a thousand miles.

But Johnny Brady, New York's street arab, made the running. He was first taken in hand by the Children's Aid society, and then was sent West with a batch of children who were being sent by the society. From a farm boy in Indiana to Yale College, where he worked his way through, was the next step. Then to Union Theological Seminary, then missionary to Alaska, and now governor of that territory. This is the record of a New York street urchin.

MONTANA HAS A SENSATION.

Supreme Court Justice Horace Buck Commits Suicide.

Helena, Mont., Dec. 7.—Judge Horace R. Buck associate justice of the supreme court of Montana, shot himself through the right eye about midnight at his home in Lenox, a suburb of Helena. He had spent the evening with a party of friends at a neighbor's house seeming very cheerful. After chatting for a while with his family he went to his room and soon afterwards the shot that ended his life was heard. His wife ran upstairs and found him lying on the floor dead.

The judge has been broken down in health for some time, and it is expected he was seized with a sudden impulse to end his uneasiness.

He was 44 years of age, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., and agraduate of Yale. He came to Montana in 1879.

AUSTRIA'S ROW.

Attempt to Divide the Country Into Language Districts.

Vienna, Dec. 6.—The Neue Freie Presse says the negotiations of the Austrian premier Baron Von Gautsch Von Frankenthurn with the various parties are progressing towards an arrangement on the language question. The young Czechs, it appears are willing to agree to a division of Bohemia into three language territories, Czechs, German and mixed. The premier had a proposition on this basis to the German parties. The greatest difficulty, it is added, is found in the fact that the Czechs insist that the officials throughout Bohemia must speak both languages. To this the Germans are opposed.

TROLLEY SMASH.

Collision on Detroit & Birmingham Road, With Fatal Results.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 4.—Two cars on the Detroit, Birmingham & Pontiac suburban electric railroad collided this afternoon at the foot of the Trowbridge hill grade, about midway between Birmingham and Pontiac, killing three persons and seriously injuring as many others. The dead are:

John Savage, superintendent of the road.

Charles M. Whitehead, motorman.

Mrs. John Dory, of Pontiac.

The seriously injured are: Thomas Maddox, stone mason, of Pontiac; Frank McCue, a street railway employe, who was badly injured internally.

Physicians from this city have gone to the scene. The accident was caused by the slippery track which was coated with ice and sleet, the grade at that point being very steep.

STARVING IN ALASKA.

More Confirmation of Privations in Klondike Region.

San Francisco, Dec. 2.—Edgar L. Strauss, of this city, a member of the Pacific stock exchange, has received a letter from his brother-in-law James W. Morrison, who is now at Dawson City, which confirms the news of the scarcity of food on the Klondike. He says: "The steamer Bella arrived, bringing about eighty tons of provisions, but still that will not be sufficient. The authorities have posted notices advising all persons not supplied with a year's provisions to go to Circle City or Fort Yukon, where provisions are to be had. The stores are closed. The cargo of the Bella won't begin to fill half the orders."

The provisions were sent of the City of Weare and only placed at 68 tons.

Fifty Students Suspended.

Beloit, Wis., Dec. 1.—Fifty freshmen out of a class of 65 have been suspended indefinitely from instruction in Beloit College for attending the class banquet at Rockford, Ill., on Thanksgiving evening without permission.

At the end of two weeks they will be given a chance to apply for reinstatement.

A Wonderful Talking Machine

Perfection has at last surely been reached in talking machines. The latest and most perfect machine has just come out. It is loud and clear and reproduces your own or any voice over and over again; speeches from the most noted statesmen, songs from the world's greatest singers, music from the greatest bands. The price of this wonderful machine is but $10.00, and it affords a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to give public entertainments. This machine is now controlled by, and catalogue and full particulars can be had from, Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago. Just cut this notice out and send to them for a book telling all about it.

R A R

RADWAYS READY RELIEF

Radway's Ready Relief is Absolutely Indispensable to every well regulated household. It instantly relieves and quickly cures all Colds, Sore Throats, Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia.

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA,

Frostbites, Chilblains, Headache, Toothache, Asthma,

and all Pains. Internally for Malaria and all Bowel Pains. Sold by all Druggists.

BANKS AND THE CURRENCY

Principal Topics in Secretary Gage's Report.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The annual report of the secretary of the treasury sent to Congress to-day shows that the total receipts for the year ended June 30, 1897, were $430,378,167, and the expenditures $448,430,022, leaving a deficit for the year of $18,052,454. The receipts for the year, however, exceeded those for the year 1896 by $20,911,759. The customs, it is shown, yielded $176,554,126, and internal revenue sources $146,088,574. As compared with 1896 this is an increase in the customs of $16,532,374, and in internal revenue $3,542,721. The secretary at some length argues the need of a reform in the currency, and in conclusion recommends the enactment of legislation establishing a department of the treasury to be designated as the issue and redemption division in which is to be deposited $125,000,000 in gold to be used only for redemption purposes, and all silver now held in the treasury for redemption purposes, and also all silver bought under the act of 1890. He further recommends that the sum of $200,000,000 in United States legal tender notes be also deposited in this division, to be disbursed therefrom only upon the receipt of gold. It is also recommended that provision be made for the issue of refunding loan ten year 2½ per cent bonds payable in gold, in exchange for any part or all of the outstanding loans of the United States.

The secretary also recommends that the national banks be authorized with a minimum capital of $25,000 in places having a population of 2,000 or less, and that the rate of taxation on circulating notes secured by deposit of bonds be reduced to ½ of 1 per cent per annum; also that banks be permitted to issue circulating notes to the par value of the refunding bonds deposited by them in the treasury, and, further, that banks be allowed to deposit as security with the treasury, greenbacks, treasury notes or silver certificates to the total amount of $200,000,000 against which national bank notes shall be issued to them to an equal amount.

After the banks have deposited such bonds, greenbacks, treasury notes and silver certificates to the amount of 50 per cent of their capital they shall be permitted to issue bank notes, in addition to the 50 per cent thus provided, to the extent of 25 per cent for which the bank's assets shall be liable. He also recommends that the guaranty of payment by the government be extended to all circulating notes of the bank, whether issued against deposited security or against assets. To secure the government against loss, if any, a tax of 2 per cent should be levied on unsecured circulation to create a safety fund to be invested by the comptroller in United States bonds. In addition the government should be further protected, the secretary says, by having first lien upon all assets in case of failure of the issuing bank. It is further recommended that all notes be redeemed in the city of New York and at other sub-treasuries at the expense of the banks and that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of $10 and upwards.

CAN SHE DO IT?

Question Which is Agitating the People of Frankton, Ind.

Elwood, Ind., Dec. 1.—The town of Frankton, south of Elwood, is wrestling with the problem of whether or not to appoint a woman as town clerk. Three weeks ago Town Clerk John Hays died, and his young widow made application to fill out his unexpired term of eighteen months. The council favored her application, but the question of legality is now under discussion. There are no lady clerks of any Indiana cities or towns.

BANK DEPOSITS

Have Almost Doubled in North Dakota in the Last Sixty Days.

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 1.—The report of State Bank Examiner H. A. Langlie, just compiled, shows an increase in the deposits of state banks from July 23 to Oct. 5, the date of the last call for statements, of 76 per cent, having nearly doubled in 60 days.

Markets and Crops.

THE TRADE REVIEW.

Manufacturers Are Busy All Over the Country.

New York, Dec. 4.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

The monthly report of failures show defaulted liabilities of $11,610,195 in November against $12,700,850 last year. Because of three large failures for $8,250,000 not due to present conditions, the aggregate in November was only $1,100,000 less than last year, and except for these would have been smaller than in August, September or October. The decrease in nearly all branches of business shows that payments have been remarkably good and defaults unusually small. Other evidences of the state of business are convincing except in speculative lines. Wages have been voluntarily advanced for nearly 30,000 workers in woolens and iron. Stocks are somewhat stronger, having advanced $1.47 for railways and $1.50 for trusts. The true value of American railway stocks is steadily rising with earnings, which for November thus far are 20.9 per cent larger than last year and 3.7 per cent. in the same weeks of 1892.

It is the season for waiting in most industries, but at least one other furnace has gone into blast and the lowest price of Bessemer at Pittsburg, after purchases of 30,000 tons, is $10.15 per ton, with $9.25 for grey forge. Eastern boilers are sometimes impatient and yet sure that January will bring a large demand.

A voluntary advance of 10 per cent. in wages of unorganized workers at Providence, covering the rates of 1893, is evidence of the prosperity of that manufacture. After much hesitation in other branches, which may be justified, this important department of the woolen industry puts itself at the front, virtually declaring its ability to face any foreign competition. The purchases of Australian wool at Boston have again been large, 2,435,000 pounds out of 6,170,700 pounds of all wool at the three chief markets against 8,521,300 pounds for the same week last year. But other markets are extremely quiet, and Boston is doing the selling at prices not named. This gain appears in the cotton manufacture and the low price of cotton still hinders the buying of goods. Lower prices than have ever been known are quoted for print cloths and also for some grades of prints, and the average of cotton goods is remarkably lower.

The wheat market has deceived everybody, dropping in the face of an enormous foreign demand just when some advance might reasonably have been anticipated. The Western receipts, 6,882,125 bushels, against 2,944,621 last year for the week, and for five weeks 33,962,329 bushels against 20,871,456 last year for the same weeks, are just now more impressive on the market than the large exports which have been 4,187,672 bushels, flour included, for the week against 2,479,457 last year, and for five weeks 17,517,471 bushels against 9,817,153 for the same weeks last year. But in the long run the outward movement will affect prices, although the surprisingly large increase at the West indicates a considerably greater yield than has been anticipated. So the enormous receipts of cotton from plantations, exceeding those to date from the great crop of about ten million bales in 1894, tend to check all speculation, although both foreign and domestic demands for spinners have been materially restricted.

Failures for the week have been 306 in the United States against 379 last year, and 28 in Canada against 55 last year.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Dec. 7, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 7.	Nov. 30.
U. S. 4's (new) coupons	128¾	128¾
U. S. 4's (new) registered	128¾	128¾
U. S. 5's coupons	114¾	114¾
U. S. 5's registered	114¾	114¾
U. S. 4's coupons	114	114
U. S. 4's registered	112¾	113¾
U. S. 2's registered	96½	96½
Pacific 6's of '95	102¾	102¾

Condition of the Grain Market at the Close To-Day.

At the opening this morning wheat was about unchanged for December, and fractionally lower for May. The Ohio crop report had a tendency to strengthen prices, as had also heavy charters at Boston. December wheat at Chicago suddenly jumped 2c a bushel from opening figures, and May 1½c. New York advanced 2c for December and 1½c for May. The pushing up of December wheat at Chicago was not so much on account of any condition as the fact that the clique worked it up. May was on account of shorts covering. It was one of the periodic flurries. After advancing sharply there was a decline of 1½c on December at Chicago on opening prices. Afterward there was an improvement of a small fraction. Northwestern receipts were comparatively moderate. Cables opened unchanged, but closed lower. At noon, as compared with yesterday, December wheat was up 1¼@2c, and May ¼@2c. In the May future there was considerable covering by shorts during the day, and this month received the most attention.

No new feature developed this afternoon, aside from the export clearances, which were very heavy, and well calculated to make firm markets. Trade during the day was fair, and prices closed easier at an advance over yesterday of ¾c on May and 1⅜@2¼c on December.

Prices of wheat to-day:

Dec.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	93	95	104½	104½
Chicago	93	99	93	98¼
New York	99¾	103¾	99¾	103¾
St. Louis	93	97	93	97¼

At New York May wheat opened at 89c; highest, 103½c; lowest, 89c; close, 99¾c; July, 82¾c; highest, 86c; lowest 82¾c; closed 85¾c. At New York May opened at 91¾c; highest, 96¾c; fell to 89¾c and closed at 95¾c asked. At St. Louis May wheat opened at 91½c; highest, 97½c; close 93½@93¾c.

Export clearances to-day: Wheat, 258,030 bushels, flour, 36,315 barrels; or, wheat and flour as wheat, 1,026,457 bushels.

May puts on wheat at Chicago at 1.30, 93½c bid; calls, 99¼@99⅝c.

December oats at Chicago, 25¾c, high 25⅞c, low 25⅜c, close 25¾c bid; May, 28¾c, high 28¾c, low 28¼c, close 28¾c bid.

Pork at Chicago for December, $7.30; January, $8.35, high $8.37, low $8.30, close $8.30.

Lard at Chicago for December, $4.17; January, $4.32, high $4.32, low $4.27, close $4.30.

Cotton exhibited firmness soon after the opening, but at the close there was slight ease. Trade was not active. At Chicago December corn opened at 25¾c, high, 25¾c; low, 25¼c, close, 25¾c bid; May, 28¾c high, 28⅞c low, 28⅝c close, 28¾c bid. At New York December corn opened at 31½c bid; high, 31½c bid; close, 31½c bid; May, 33¾c; high, 33¾c; close, 33¾c asked.

Receipts in the Northwest, 504,201 bushels of wheat; on track, 734 cars; same time last year, 482 cars.

Liverpool wheat, spot 1d lower, futures, 1d lower to ½d higher. Spot corn ½d lower, futures steady, ½d higher.

A Chalmasan cable says: Estimates are that France must still import 30,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Ohio crop report started shorts to covering. Harvest prospects of South Australia favorable.

Paris wheat closed 5 to 15 centimes lower; flour, 10@25 centimes lower.

Antwerp wheat unchanged.

A correction has been made in visible of corn, making the decrease 1,108,000 bushels, instead of 2,108,000 bushels, as reported yesterday.

The Ohio state crop report for December shows the growing wheat crop to be in poor condition. Late seeding and long drouth conspired to send the wheat plant into the winter season with little root and very little color. Only scattering mild winter or warm and continuous snow protection can bring anything like a fair crop out of the present conditions. The corn crop is largely above the average. The following are the principal figures. Wheat condition compared with an average, 63 per cent; crop of 1897 sold since threshing, 45 per cent; damage to growing crop by Hessian fly, 27 per cent. Corn—Estimated area for 1897, 2,750,000 acres; average yield per acre, 33.67 bushels; total estimated product for 1897, 92,608,123 bushels.

Thurman says the government report will likely show an increase in winter wheat acreage of 5 per cent, and condition 85 per cent.

The Close at Toledo—Wheat Higher, Easy.

Wheat 1c to 1c higher at the local exchange as compared with yesterday's close. Trade dull, with easier prices ruling at the close.

No. 2 soft red wheat, 94c bid, and to close 94½c bid; No. 3 soft red, 90c.

December wheat, 93¾@95c, 94½c bid; May, 93c, 95¾c asked, at finish 93¾c bid.

Corn—Dull, Steady.

Corn was dull, but steady, with No. 2 mixed 1c higher at 26½c; No. 2 May, 29c, then 28¾@29c. No. 3 yellow, 27c.

Oats—Dull, steady. No. 2 mixed, 22c; No. 2 white, 25c; No. 3 white, 24c.

Rye—Dull, unchanged. No. 2, 47c; No. 3, 45c.

Clover Seed—Active, steady; prime, cash and December, $4.12½; March, $4.22½. Alsike, 2 sacks closed at $2.95; buckhorn, $2.85. Receipts, 515 bags; shipments, 419 bags.

Timothy Seed—No. 2, $1.10.

Toledo Produce Market.

Trade dull to-day on account of the unfavorable weather. The best creamery butter holds fairly well, but other grades are easier. Eggs, strictly fresh, are in demand at outside prices. Dressed meats are in good supply. Hogs are easy to 10c lower. Poultry is steady. In fruits, apples of finest quality are firm.

Butter—Finest Elgin creamery, 22c; Ohio and Michigan creamery, 20@21c; dairy butter, 18@19c.

Eggs—Strictly fresh, 20@21c; fall packed, 18c; storage eggs, 14@16c.

Cheese—Full cream, best grades, lb., 10@11c; part skim, 8@9c; full skim, 6c.

Vegetables—Beets, bu., 25c; turnips, bu., 25@30c; rutabagas, bu., 40c; celery, dozen stalks, 15@40c; onions, bu., 40c; potatoes, bu., 60c; squashes, 1c; carrots, bu., 40c; cabbage, each,